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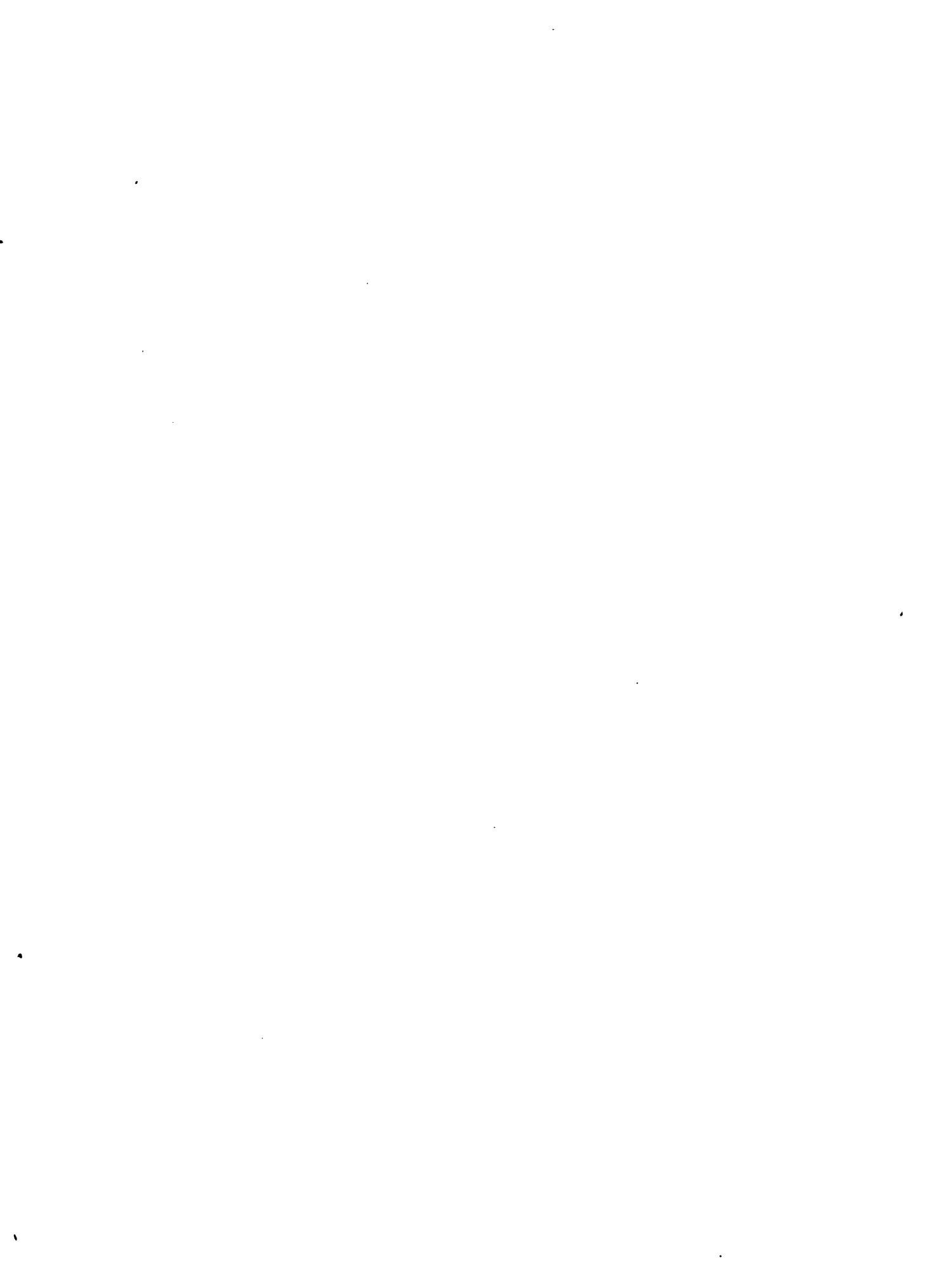
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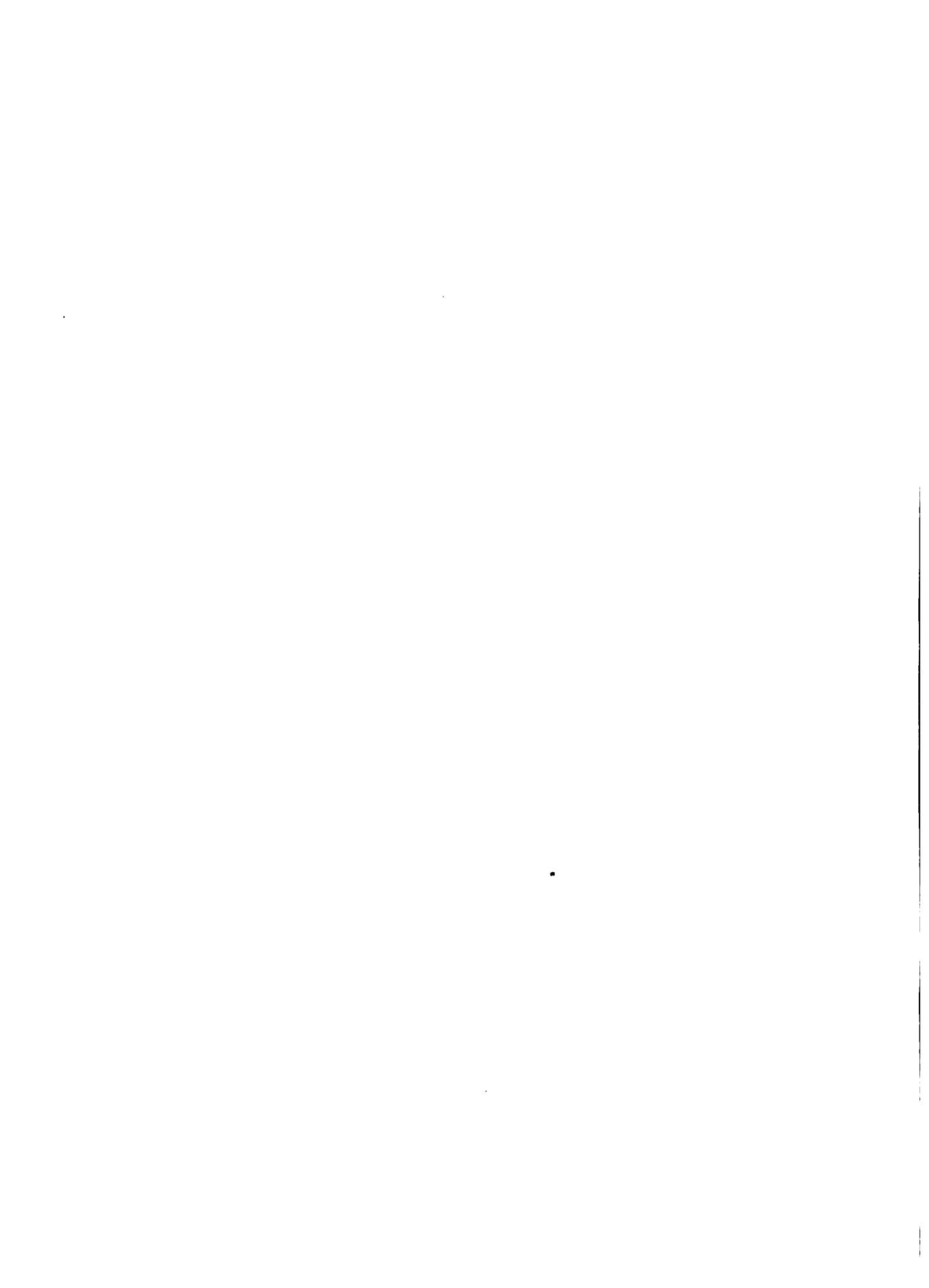
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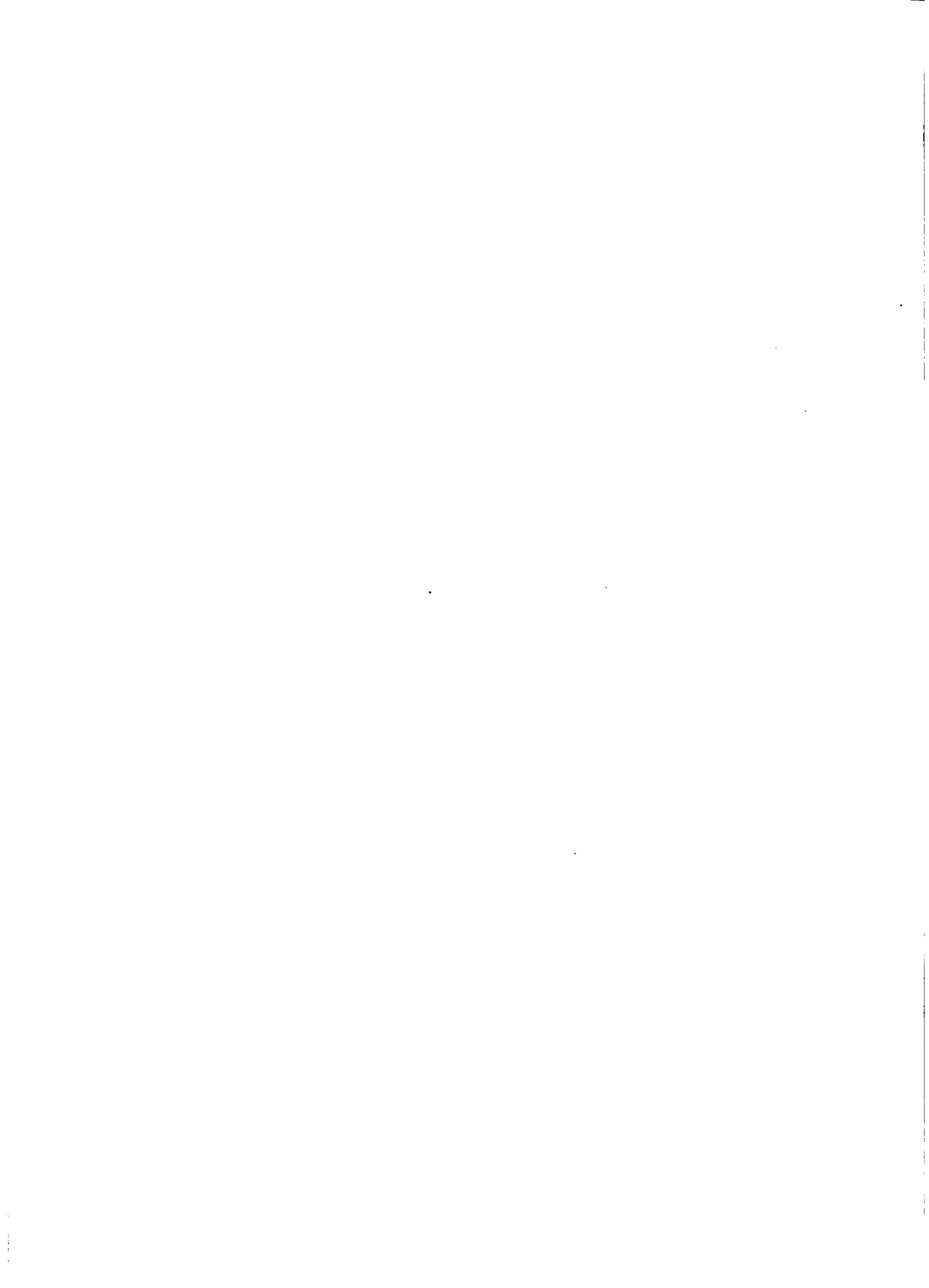
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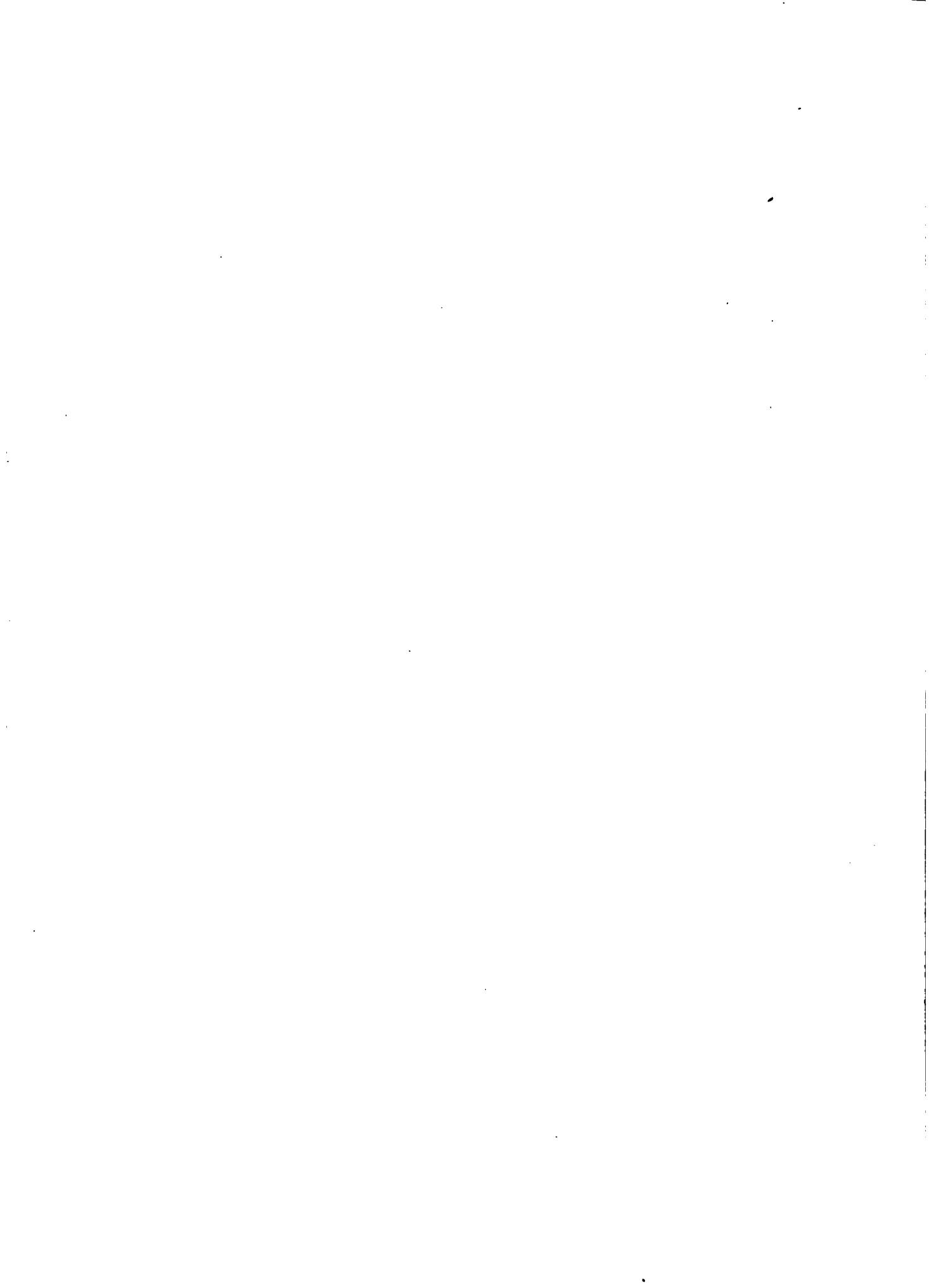








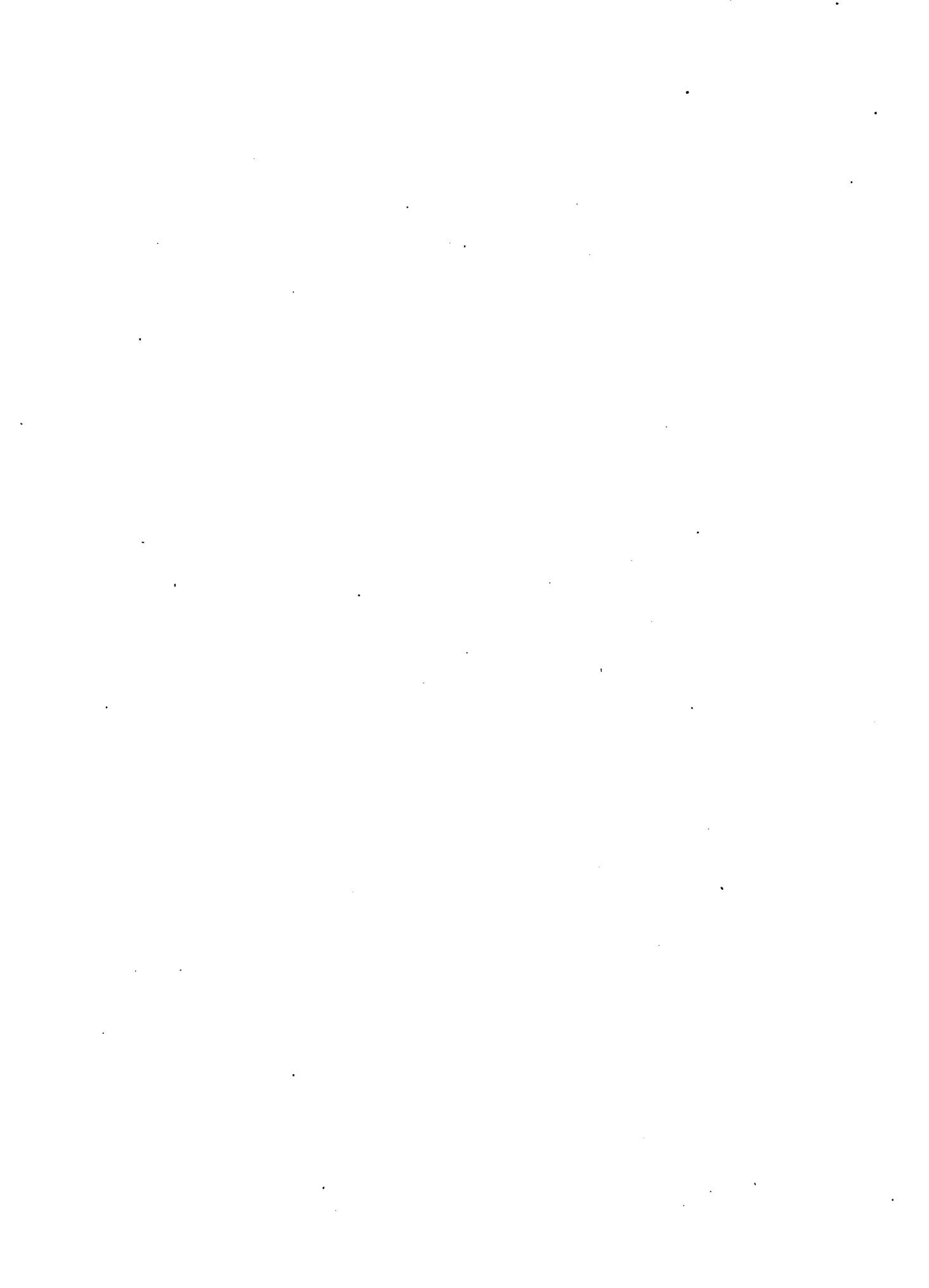


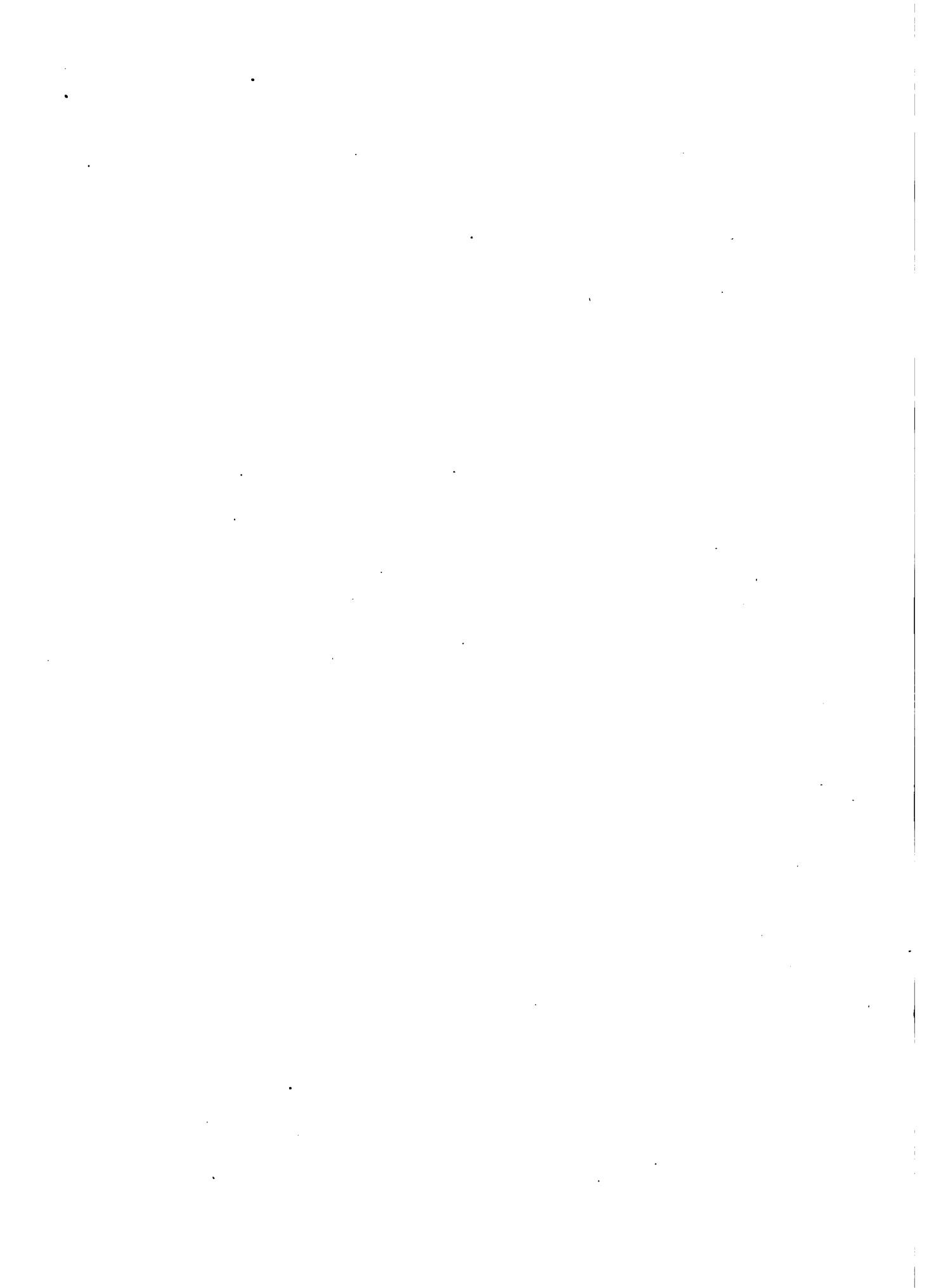




DR. J. P. EMMET.

From painting by Ford.





A MEMOIR  
OF  
JOHN PATTEN EMMET M.D.

FORMERLY  
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND MATERIA MEDICA  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

WITH A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE EMMET FAMILY HISTORY

BY  
THOS. ADDIS EMMET M.D. LL.D.

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1898

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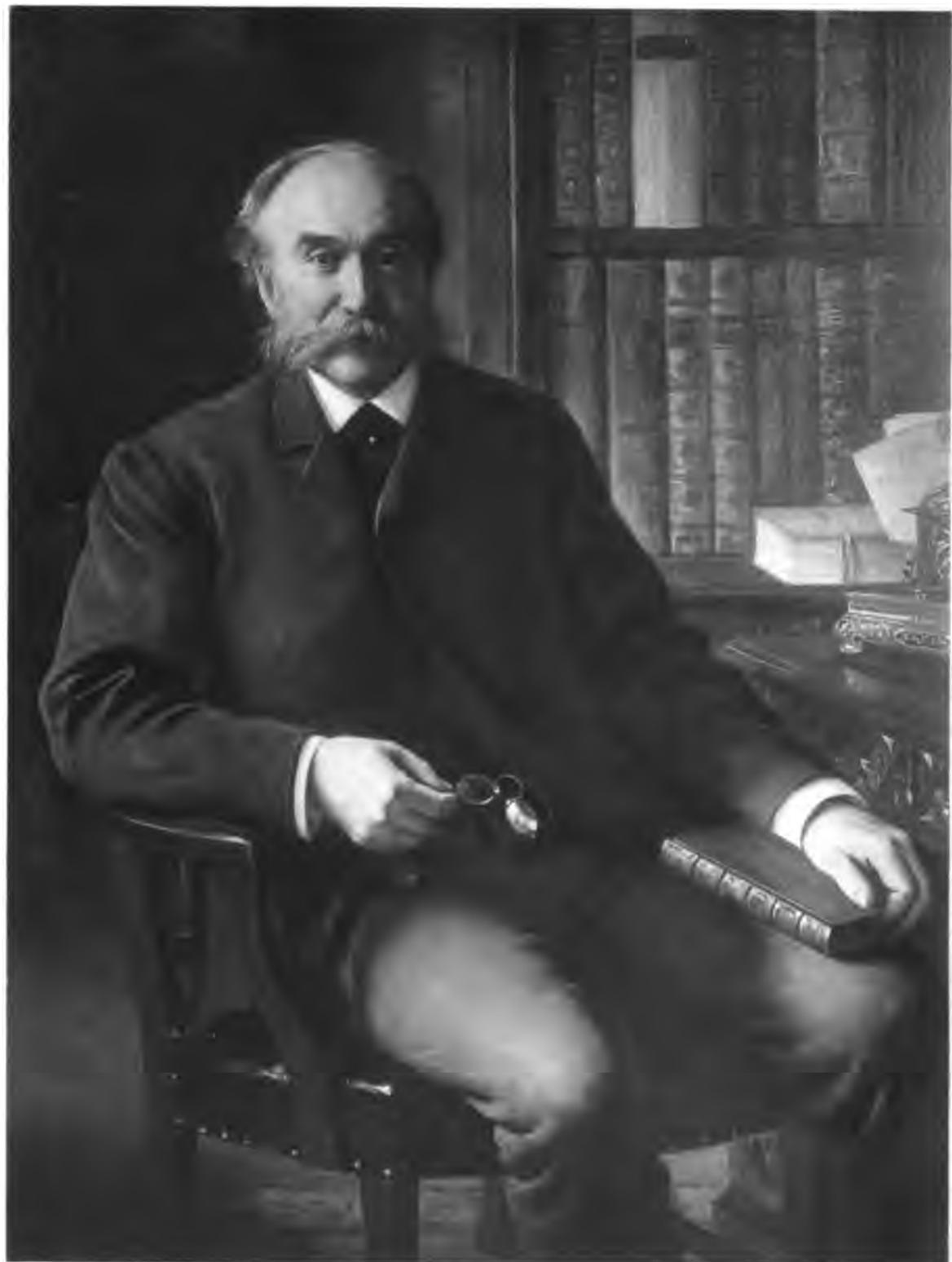
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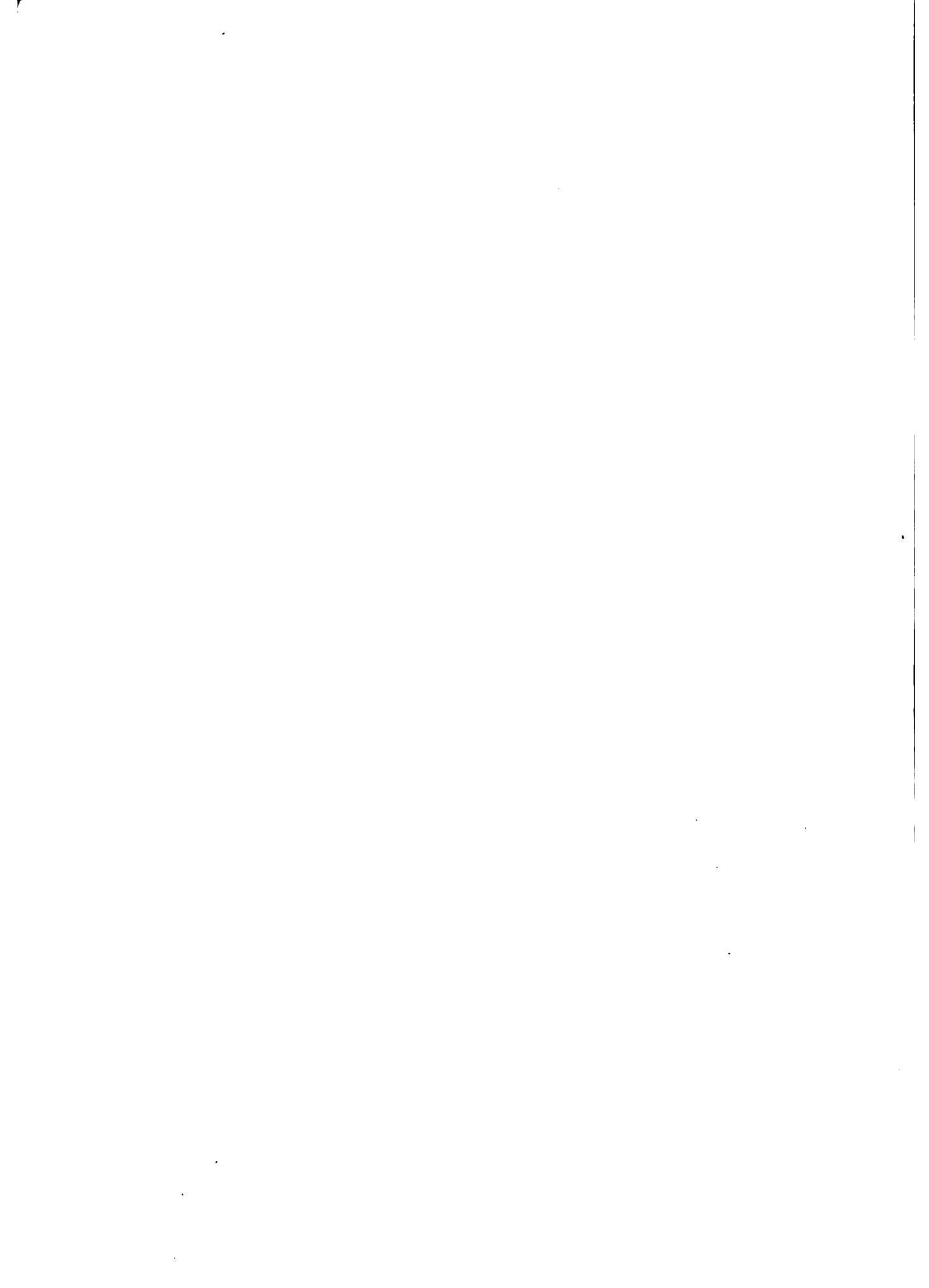


THOS. ADDIS EMMET, M. D.

With my love  
I dedicate this volume  
To my children  
and  
do so with the hope  
that they may realize a just pride  
in the record of those who, in the past, have so  
honestly filled their places in life.

A sentiment which, if properly  
appreciated, must needs bear good fruit  
from the example  
thus set forth for  
emulation —

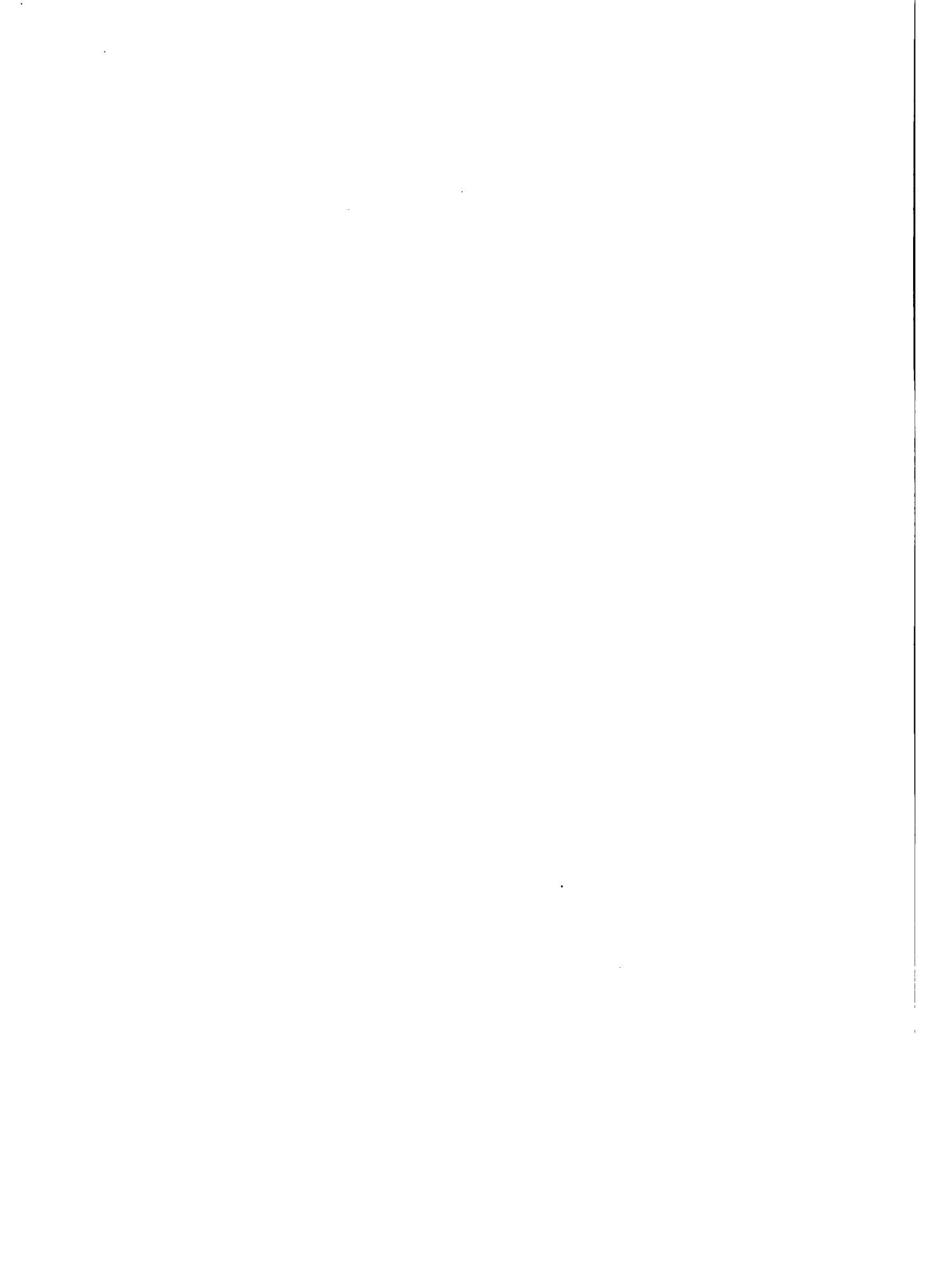
Thos Addis Compton, M.D.  

## PREFACE.

A large portion of the material utilized in this memoir was collected years ago to form a history of the Emmet family, which was intended only for the children of the writer, and with the hope on his part of encouraging the sentiment set forth in the dedication.

But the writer having been requested to prepare for the Bulletin of the University of Virginia a sketch of his father, who was many years professor in that institution, he found it necessary, in complying with the request, to make many changes. To condense the memoir within the limited space for the periodical it was necessary to omit much valuable material. The sketch prepared for the Bulletin developed into this volume, that the omissions might thus be preserved. To utilize for the same purpose many family letters and documents of the greatest value, and which could not be used in the memoir of Dr. Emmet, an extended history of the Emmet family was finally written and published. The memoir now presented forms a portion of this family history, and a limited number of copies were reprinted at the time of the publication of the larger work.



## INTRODUCTION.

The name of Emmet has existed in England for centuries. The records of Oxford show that in one of the colleges of that university Henry Emmet received the degree of Doctor of Music in the time of Henry the Second.

Sir Bernard Burke, in his work on the "Landed Gentry," claims that members of the family bearing the name of Emot and Emmott have been landholders in Lancastershire since the days of William the Conqueror; and the name, variously spelled, is not infrequently found at the present day in that portion of England, as well as in the adjoining county of Yorkshire. Burke states: "Of this family, established in England at the Conquest, the first or second on record is Robert de Emot, who held lands in Colne, 4 Edward II., as per inquisition; he built the mansion of Emot, and died 1310."

The Emmott family is still living on these lands at Colne, and from this source all of the race originally sprang, without reference to the different modes of spelling the name.

The Shakesperian Society of England has published a document showing who were Shakespeare's neighbors in "Chapel Street Ward, Stratforde Borrough, Warwick." At a certain time of great scarcity this document was doubtless made as an inventory for ascertaining the quantity of grain held by each family in the town. It is indorsed: "The noate of Corne and Malte, taken the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 1597, in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the raigne of our most gracious Soveraigne Ladie, Queen Elizabeth," etc.

"William Shackespere" is credited with "ten quarters," and "William Emmette's" stock on hand is given as "eight quarters of Corne." As there were but four other persons in the town who held a larger quantity, and but little in excess, it is apparent from this fact, and from the locality of his residence, that this Wm. Emmet, in 1597, was a man of means and position in Stratford-upon-Avon.

A search, extending over a number of years, was carried on in Great Britain and Ireland, by direction of the writer, to obtain from the public documents and other sources all the available information in connection with the Emmet family at large. As a result of this investigation it was found that there had existed no standard mode of spelling the name, and it was equally evident that in many instances the same individual had frequently varied his orthography at different periods of his life.

The name of Emmet seems to possess some special attraction for the struggling play-actor, the negro minstrel and the clog-dancer. The writer has known of three instances in this country and of one in England where persons on the stage have assumed the name. One of the most noted instances was the late clog-dancer, "J. K. Emmet," whose real name it is said was Kline, and who had not the slightest claim whatever to the name of Emmet; moreover, his family still continue to use it.

In the investigation made it was found that there are certain striking peculiarities strangely associated almost everywhere with the name of Emmet. The most striking is in the close resemblance of the arms borne by the different branches of the family for centuries past, without relation to the different modes of spelling the name. They are the same as are used by the Emmott family of to-day at Colne, and were no doubt borne by Robert de Emot in the fourteenth century. With us in this country heraldic claims would bear but little weight, but in consideration of the importance which has been attached to them in other portions of the world and the jealousy with which the use was guarded, the fact stated should bear great weight in proving a common origin.

It was found in nearly every generation and in every branch, that the Christian names of Christopher, Robert, William, Thomas and John have been those most commonly used. Again, the records of England and Ireland show, during the past three hundred years, that an unusually large proportion of the Emmets, with the various modes of spelling, have been professional men, generally "married well" and evidently to superior women, as a rule, who were able to train their children to the best advantage. So far as could be judged from a large number of wills examined, there is no evidence that the Emmets at any time possessed great wealth, but all seemed to have been in comfortable circumstances, for but one of the name was found on the records of the bankruptcy courts. This would indicate a prudent, thrifty race, with little taste for show and one inclined to live within its means. But the most remarkable circumstance noted was the fact that the family has occupied essentially the



MRS. REBECCA TEMPLE EMETT.

DR. CHRISTOPHER EMETT.



same social position from our earliest record to the present day—a fact doubtless to be attributed to the training of professional life and the consequent development and maintenance of the intellectual faculties. Medicine seemed to have been a favorite profession and many were successful at the Bar, but not a clergyman of the name has been found in Ireland. In the north of England there have been several of the Established Church bearing the name of Emmott, and at a more recent period the Rev. M. Emmet became prominent in central England as a Methodist minister.

Different branches of the Emmet family have been settled in Ireland for nearly three hundred years. The family in the United States of America came from Christopher Emett, who was born in 1700, as was ascertained from the headstone over his grave in the yard of the Tipperary parish church. He was a physician or surgeon, and, according to Dr. Madden's\* statement, had a large practice at the time of his death. He probably practiced surgery chiefly, and did not take the degree of Doctor of Medicine, which would explain why he never termed himself "Doctor," and, in fact, nothing more than "Christopher Emett, Gent," as his signature appears on his will and other documents. He married, February 9th, 1727, Rebecca, only daughter of Thos. Temple, Esq., and granddaughter of Sir Purbeck Temple, Bart. Her father resided for the greater portion of his life in America, as did his son Robert, and his grandsons Robert and Sir John Temple. They married in New England and their descendants intermarried again with the Emmet family in this country.

Christopher Emett died in Tipperary, Ireland, August 26th, 1743, and his wife, Rebecca Temple, died November 24th, 1774. Christopher Emett left two children, Thomas and Robert. Thomas and his only child died June 27th, 1758, of smallpox.

Robert was born in Tipperary, November 29th, 1729, and became a noted physician. He received his degree of medicine in the University of Montpellier, France, about 1750, and began the practice of medicine in Cork, Ireland. In 1753 Dr. Emmet wrote a medical work† on some of the diseases of women, which was originally published in Latin, and was afterwards translated into French, with two editions printed in Paris.

Dr. Emmet married Elizabeth Mason, in Cork, November 16th, 1760,

\* Lives and Times of the United Irishmen.

† *Tentamina Medica, de Mensium fluxu, et de Curatione Morborum Cephalicorum.* Autore Roberto Emett, Med. Bacc. è Societate Regiâ Scientiarum Monspeliense, MDCCCLIII. The writer possesses a copy of each edition; the Latin one was presented to him in 1879, through the fully appreciated courtesy of the Obstetrical Society of London.

a woman of remarkable intelligence. Shortly after this marriage, Earl Temple, then the Marquis of Buckingham, became Viceroy of Ireland, and he advised his kinsman, Dr. Emmet, to settle in Dublin, and then appointed him state physician. He soon became a prominent man and most successful in his profession, and early in life he began to take an active part in politics and acquired a reputation as a noted political writer of the day.

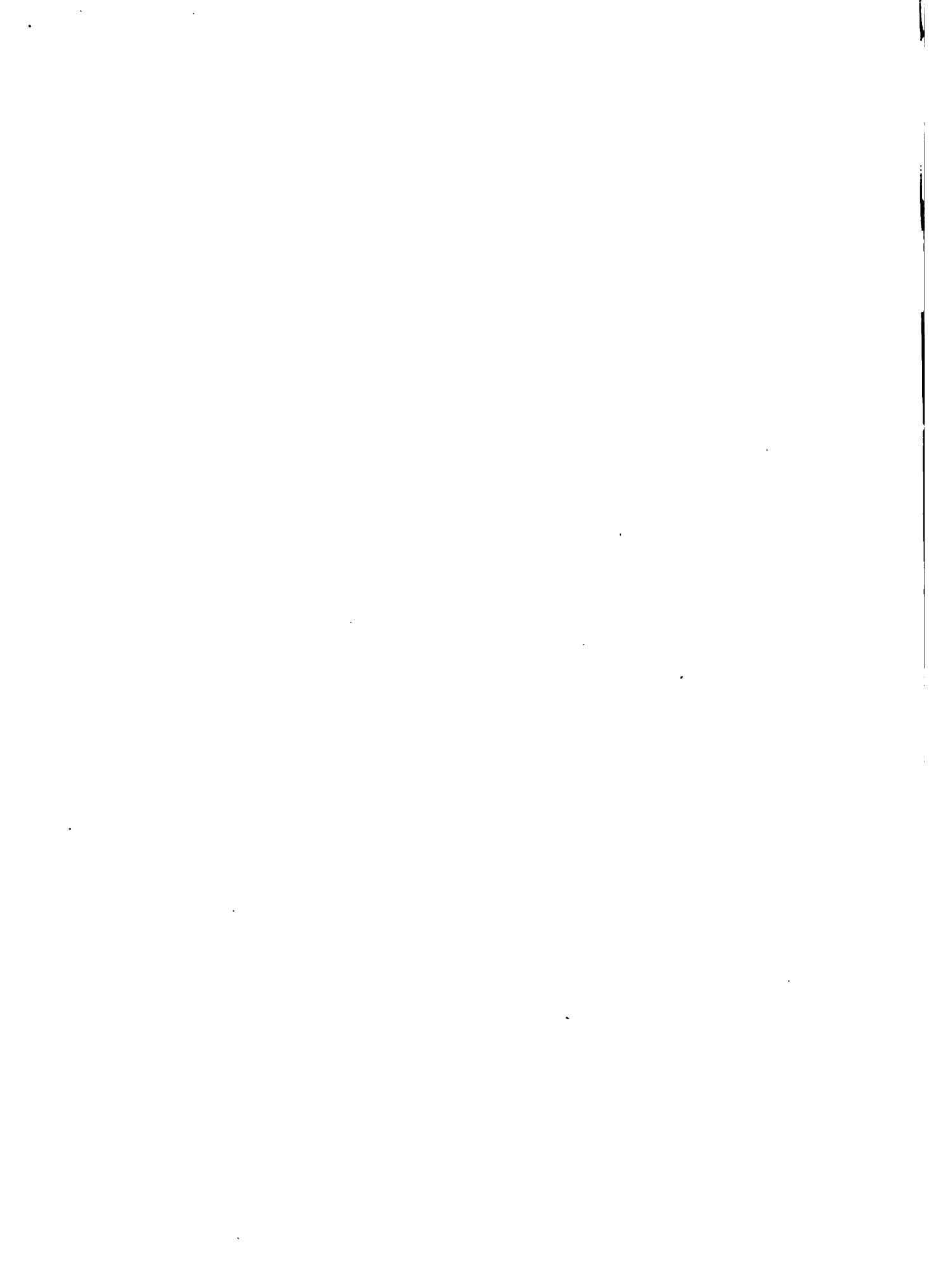
Dr. Emmet was the father of sixteen children, but four only lived beyond childhood. These were Christopher Temple, Thos. Addis, Mary Anne and Robert. Dr. Madden states that "Dr. Emmet was a man of warmth of feeling, frank, upright and steadfast in his opinions. His lady was a person of noble disposition and of a vigorous understanding, fit to be the mother of three such children as Christopher Temple, Thomas Addis and Robert Emmet." When giving the "Folk-lore of the Emmets," at the beginning of the second chapter in the Life of T. A. Emmet, Dr. Madden refers to the material which has been furnished as follows: "The notes of the sons of Thos. Addis Emmet, that have reference chiefly to the career of their illustrious father, leave many deficiencies to be supplied in the accounts given of the origin of this remarkable family—perhaps one of the most remarkable, in an intellectual point of view, of any family we have authentic account of." During a visit to Ireland in 1880 the writer had the good fortune to meet Dr. Madden, and on one occasion he expressed the opinion, as one based upon his personal investigation, that the father and mother and the three sons and daughter of this branch of the Emmet family constituted the most talented family in every respect that he had ever known of.

It will be necessary to quote fully from Dr. Madden's work, as it is the only source from which it is now possible to obtain any accurate information. Of Christopher Temple Emmet, the eldest son, it is stated: "He was called to the Bar in 1781; he was appointed one of His Majesty's counsel in 1787, and during his short professional career, a period not exceeding eight years, for he died in 1789, his brilliant talents and eminent legal attainments obtained for him a character that in the same brief space was probably never gained at the Irish Bar."

Mr. Grattan, in the life of his father, the celebrated Henry Grattan, gives it as his opinion that "Temple Emmet, before he came to the bar, knew more law than any of the judges on the bench; and if he had been placed on one side, and the whole bench opposed to him, he could have been examined against them and would have surpassed them all; he would have answered better both in law and divinity than any judge or bishop in the



DR. ROBERT EMMET.





ANNE WESTERN TEMPLE EMMET.



CHRISTOPHER TEMPLE EMMET



land. He had a wonderful memory, he recollects every thing, it stuck to him with singular tenacity." Temple Emmet died, after a short illness, in February, 1788, at twenty-seven years of age, while absent from home on the Munster Circuit. He married his second cousin, Anne Western Temple, a daughter of Robert Temple, of Ten Hills, near Boston, Mass., and left one child, a daughter, who died unmarried.

Mrs. Emmet's sister married the first Lord and grandfather of the present Marquis of Dufferin.

Thos. Addis Emmet, the next son, was born in Dublin April 24th, 1764. He was educated in Dublin, and graduated from Trinity College. He studied medicine in Edinburgh, and obtained his degree in 1784 with unusual honors. His thesis \* for graduation was written in Latin and dedicated to "Noblissimo et intergerrimo viro, Georgis Grenville Nugent Temple, Comiti Temple, &c.," and was deemed worthy of publication by the authorities of the University. He served the usual period, as one of the resident physicians in Guy's Hospital, London, and then began the practice of medicine with his father in Dublin. He had already entered on a practice which promised him a brilliant future, when, on the sudden death of his brother, Temple, his father urged him to adopt the law. Without delay he acceded to his father's wishes, and within an unusually short period Dr. Emmet thoroughly qualified himself for the Bar. After he was admitted he rose rapidly, and soon clearly showed that he would occupy the position his brother had held.

Dr. Madden, in his Life of T. A. Emmet, claims in the dedication that he was "a man of great worth and virtue, sound understanding, solid judgment, fine talents, and highly cultivated tastes; of singular equanimity of disposition; yet of inflexible integrity, steadfast principles, just views, and well-weighed opinions."

On January 11th Mr. Emmet married Jane, a daughter of the Rev. John Patten, a Presbyterian clergyman of Clonmel, Ireland, and Margaret, a daughter of Wm. Colville, Esq., and Margaret Thompson. He devoted himself assiduously to his profession, but became identified as early as 1794 with the cause of the United Irishmen. This connection led to his arrest on March 12th, 1798, and he was committed to prison. Notwithstanding there existed no doubt of the fact that Mr. Emmet was a leader of the organization and guilty of treason from the Government standpoint, the necessary evidence could not be obtained, and he was not brought to trial.

\**Tentamen Chymico-Medicum, de Aere Fixo, sive Acido Aereo.* Edinburgh: MDCCLXXXIV.  
This thesis was also selected on account of its great merit and published, by Smellie the naturalist, in the *Thasaurus Medicus*.

Mr. Emmet was confined in the Dublin prisons for nearly a year after his arrest, and was then removed, with eighteen other leaders of the movement, to Fort George, in Scotland, April 9th, 1799.

Mrs. Emmet at first was not allowed to accompany her husband, but some eighteen months afterwards she obtained permission to join him. For over two years she shared with him a small cell in a casemate. Here she was kept a close prisoner, which was the only condition on which she could remain with her husband. The Government directed that if by any chance Mrs. Emmet left the cell she was to be at once ejected from the fortress and not to be allowed to return.

Finally the British Government decided to release the "state prisoners," on condition that they would expatriate themselves, after having kept them in custody for four years without being able to prosecute them. Mr. Emmet landed in Holland July 4th, 1802, with his wife and three eldest children. He intended to have emigrated with his family and his brother Robert to the United States. But he was urged by the Directory of the United Irishmen to proceed to Paris and act there as the Minister from the Irish Republic, as at that time it was assumed probable that the republic would be established with the aid of France. At length being fully assured of Napoleon's lying and treacherous policy towards Ireland, Mr. Emmet left France and arrived in New York November 11th, 1804, to begin life anew. By special act, gained through the influence of his friends, George Clinton, De Witt Clinton, Daniel D. Tompkins, Mr. Jefferson, the President of the United States, and others, he was allowed without delay to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States and in the courts of the State of New York before he was naturalized. Mr. Emmet's course at the Bar was a phenomenal one, as he overcame all opposition and eventually reached the highest position with a national reputation.

The first case he received was from the Quakers to defend a fugitive slave, and his last was for charity in support of the will establishing the present wealthy corporation termed the Sailors' Snug Harbor of New York.

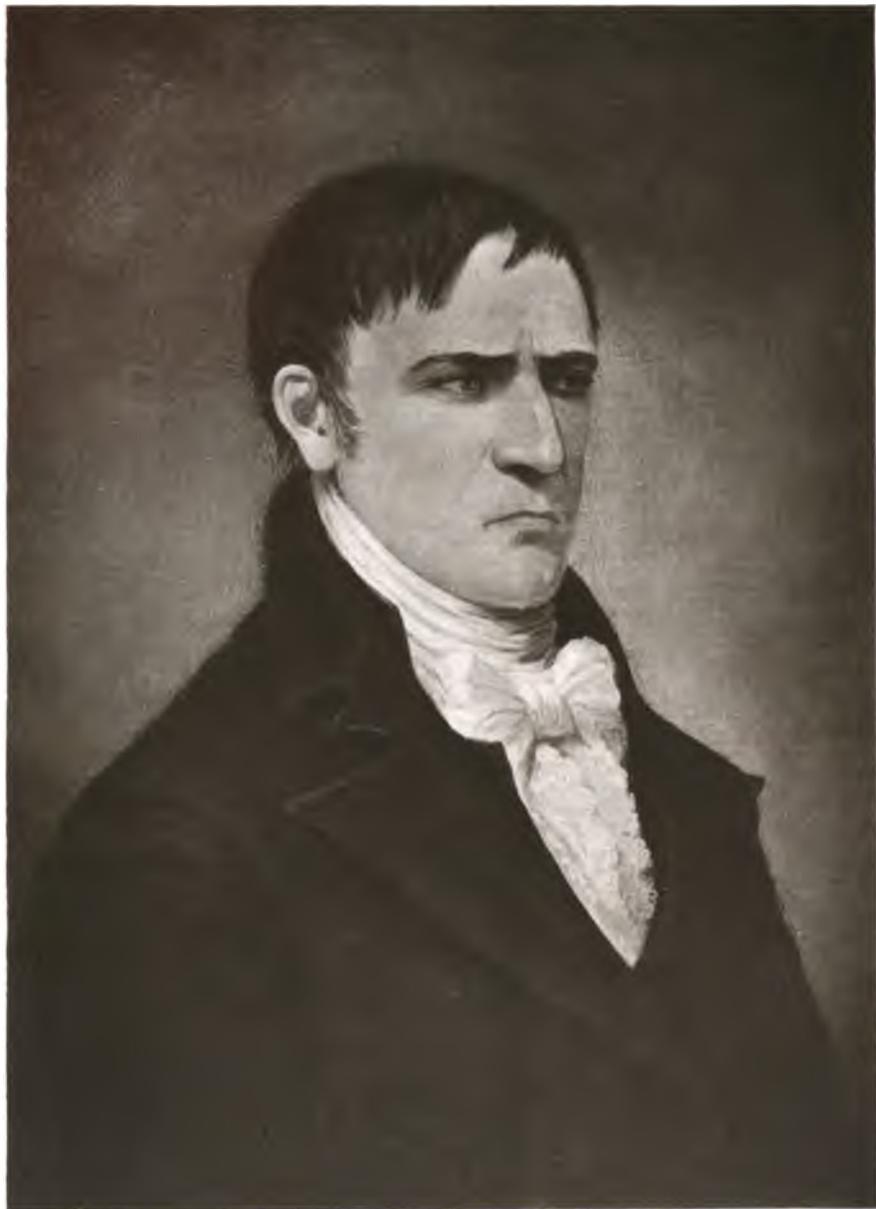
Mr. Emmet died on November 14th, 1827. The following extract is taken from one of the many editorial notices published at the time of his death—the New York *Albion*, November 18th, 1827: "Of that bar he might well be called the father, 'et decus et tutamen'; perhaps we may say, without offense to those who survive him, that whether we regard the virtues of the heart, the high sense of honour which characterized every action of his life, or the display of his forensic talents, he has not left his superior behind him."



THOS. ADDIS EMMET.







ROBERT EMMET AT HIS TRIAL,  
BY JOHN MULVANY

"I am charged with being an emissary of France.  
It is false."

As the writer wishes to show the remarkable talents possessed by each member of this family, he will briefly refer to the two younger members, Miss Emmet and her brother Robert, whose sad fate has excited the wide sympathy of the world.

Mary Anne, the only daughter, was born in Dublin, October 10th, 1773. She was a woman of remarkable intellect, and, as Madden states, "she shared in the talents which seemed hereditary in her family." During the political turmoil of several years, and which eventually terminated in the Irish Rebellion of 1798, no one did more to rouse the people than Miss Emmet by her vigorous writings on the political questions of the day. She was a thorough classical scholar, an accomplishment which she held in common with the other members of her family. The writer has in his possession several political pamphlets from her pen. These clearly show that she must have possessed a profound knowledge of political economy, with a familiarity of history and the body politic, gained only after careful reading, which few public men of her day possessed. Miss Emmet married Mr. Robert Holmes, a distinguished lawyer of Dublin. She had one child, who married Mr. Lenox-Conyngham, and who was the mother of the present dowager of the late Viscount Donaraile, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Robert, the youngest son of Dr. Robert Emmet, was born in Dublin, March 4th, 1778.

Dr. Madden, in his Life of Robert Emmet, quotes from a letter written by a distinguished Protestant clergyman of Dublin, the Rev. Archibald Douglass, and dated November 6th, 1842, in which he states: "With Robert Emmet I was most intimate before he entered college and after. Indeed, in his young days he almost lived in our house. So gifted a creature does not appear in a thousand years. The whole family were distinguished for talents of the highest order." Thomas Moore, the poet, was both at school and college with Robert Emmet, and in his "Life and Death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald" he writes: "Were I to number, indeed, the men among all I have ever known who appeared to me to combine in the greatest degree pure moral worth with intellectual power, I should, among the highest of the few, place Robert Emmet."

Robert Emmet was executed for high treason September 20th, 1803, in the twenty-fifth year of his age. His father died in Dublin, December 9th, 1802, aged seventy-three.

Dr. Madden writes in reference to the death of Mrs. Emmet: "She survived her husband only nine months. She preceded her younger son, Robert, to the tomb by a few days. From the period of the arrest of her

son, T. A. Emmet, in March, 1798, her existence was a blank. . . . The father had sunk under the trial, although he was a man of courage and equanimity of mind; but the mother's last hope in her youngest son sustained in some degree her broken strength and spirits, and that hope was dashed down never to rise again when her favorite child, the prop of her old age, was taken from her, and the terrible idea of his frightful fate became her one fixed thought from the instant the dreadful tidings of his apprehension reached her 'till the approaching term of the crowning catastrophe, when, in mercy to her, she was taken away from her great misery."

## DR. JOHN PATTEN EMMET.

John Patten Emmet was born in the city of Dublin, Ireland, on the 8th of April, 1796. He was the second son of Thos. Addis Emmet and Jane Patten.

The following letter, written by the father to his second cousin, a granddaughter of Diana Emett and the sister of Christopher, is probably the first record made of the son's birth:

DUBLIN, April 30th, 1796.

MY DEAR MRS. MACOURBY:

Tho' I was very sorry to hear of Mr. Forde's death on many accounts, yet I assure you it gave me very sincere pleasure to find by your letter that he had left you out of debt. It was an act of kindness and generosity highly worthy of him. I am very much obliged to you for having thought of making me acquainted with your good fortune and feel something more than flattered by the expressions of gratitude you are so good as to use towards me. I am only sorry it is not in my power to be of more essential service to my friends and relations.

You did not know at the time you were wishing me joy of the birth of my last daughter Mrs. Emmet was on the point of giving me another son, which she did in a few days after I received yours. She is now, thank God, extremely well and the mother of four fine children, two boys and two girls. So that you see my family is increasing fast. My sister Mary Ann is much obliged to you for enquiring after her. She is, thank God, extremely well and strong,—so is my brother's daughter, who is growing up a very sensible and sweet tempered child. My father, mother, Mrs. Emmet and all the family join in kindest good wishes to you, with your

Affectionate friend and kinsman,

THOS. ADDIS EMMET.

Mrs. Macoubry,  
Care G. Knox, Anacloy,  
Downpatrick.

Mr. T. A. Emmet, as we have seen, was one of the leaders of the United Irishmen, and in consequence of the uprising of the Irish people against the British Government in 1798 he was arrested and imprisoned.

Mr. Emmet was imprisoned for a time in Dublin; then he was removed, with other leaders of the United Irishmen, to Fort George, in Scotland, and was finally released after having been immured some five years. After he had been imprisoned for some time permission was at length obtained, and chiefly through Mrs. Emmet's efforts, for her to join him at Fort George. There, through the instrumentality of Col. Stuart, the Lieutenant-Governor

of the fort, the eldest son, Robert, and the two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, were allowed to remain with their parents. But their second son, John, and the two youngest children, Thomas and Temple, remained in Dublin after their father's arrest with their grandparents, Dr. Emmet and his wife, Elizabeth Mason.

From letters written by Dr. Emmet and his wife to their son, imprisoned in Fort George, the following abstracts were taken, and they are the only records now existing in relation to John's childhood.

Mrs. Emmet writes October 9th, 1800: "The two young ones [Tom and Temple] are gaining ground so fast as to be likely to distance poor John, who is certainly a very honest, good-tempered fellow, but his talents are of the slow kind. He may, nevertheless, hereafter head the tribe, for we know that the battle is not to the strong, nor the race always to the swift."

October 30th we find: "John, tho' last named is not I assure you ever forgotten by us, he looks robust and hearty and is much more playful and lively, but still your father thinks his lungs are in a very spongy state."

The grandfather, in a letter to his son of November 13th, 1800, writes about the children: "As to those under my care they certainly must fall short in education, but we will do the best we can. John is at a crown and quarter school, where he tells me he makes great proficiency. Four or five letters a day in his A, B, C, but as yet he does not couple them very accurately. John is, however, a very well disposed, well tempered child, and if he does not mount into the Empyrean Galaxy he will always keep the Milky Path of life and never tread on thorns."

January 9th, 1801, Mrs. Emmet acknowledges a slight partiality for the two younger children, who she states are "the most interesting. John's ideas are, however, I think opening more and to shew you that he looks beyond the present time, he asked me the other day, with great sobriety, when I thought he would be fit to be married." Again, January 30th, 1801: "I find Mrs. Patten has coupled me along with herself to express a little jealousy at your intending to send for Tom in preference to John. Jane will know how to translate this, as she knows that her mother is partial to John and that I do not profess to be so; tho' I assure you he is rising very much in our estimation. He gave us all very great pleasure the other day by an instance of self conquest and firmness, which would have done honor even to my dear little Robert; the incident is too trivial and too tedious to make part of my letter, but it would have given you pleasure to see it."

My Dear Miss Macoubry

This I was very sorry to hear  
of Mr. Ford's death on many accounts yet  
I assure you it gave me very sincere pleasure  
to find by your letter that he had left you  
out of debt. It was an act of kindness & generosity  
nearly worthy of him - I am very much  
obliged to you for having thought of making  
me acquainted with your good fortune & feel  
something more than flattered by the expression  
of gratitude you are so good as to use towards  
me. I am only sorry it was out of my power to  
be of more essential service to my friend &  
relations. You did not know that at the time you  
were wishing me joy of the birth of my last & dearest  
daughter - it will assure I was on the point of giving  
one another info. which she did in a few days after  
I received yours - She is now, thank God, extremely well

\*

A LETTER FROM T. A. EMMET TO MISS MACOUBRY,  
ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF HIS SECOND SON JOHN.

& the mother of four fine children, two boys & two  
girls - so that you see my family is increasing  
fast. My sister Mary Ann is much obliged to  
you for enquiring after her - she is thank God  
extremely well & strong - so is my brother's daughter  
who is growing into a very sensible & masterful  
child - My Father, Mother, & Mrs. Smart & all their  
family join in kindest good wishes to you with

Your affectionate friend

Dublin <sup>4</sup> Winsome  
April 30. 1796. Chas. Addis Smart

In a letter of March 19th, 1801, we find: "Little John is at my elbow and expressly desires me to tell you that he is a very good boy, that he has gotten a new spelling book from his grandmama Patten, and that he will take care and get his lessons well; all this I am sure he has sincere intentions of performing, tho' I must confess that in his old spelling book he is not very brilliant. He, however, I am told, performs the part of an usher in the school and acquits himself with great propriety. John I think is much better at school, it helps to enliven him and in some measure open his ideas. He does not learn any bad habits and is very fond of it. At home he would be apt to grow sluggish,—he and the others are all well."

May 10th, 1801, Mrs. Emmet wrote: "The two eldest boys desire their love to all. John never omits desiring me to read your letters to him and I generally take the liberty of framing a paragraph for them, to which they both hearken with pleasure and attention." Again, on June 25th, 1801, we find: "John is not long returned from a week's visit to Mrs. Patten, who has made him very happy with entire new clothes and a great number of buttons. He felt very visibly the importance he had acquired by his visit to town, for so soon as he returned he desired that John Delany should be brought into play with him, as his grandmama had always a boy on purpose to play with him. He does not, I assure you, want either observation or intellect, he has great natural justice and a very open good-natured temper."

August 27th, 1801, the grandmother wrote: "John continues always at a steady gait, never very high nor ever low spirited."

In the few letters which were preserved after this date we find no further allusion made to the children.

After Mr. Emmet's release from Fort George, on June 30th, 1802, he lived in Brussels and Paris until his emigration to the United States in October, 1804. John, however, and the two younger children remained with their grandparents until their death, and afterwards with other relations until March, 1805, when they set out with a friend of the family to join their parents in New York. Shortly before leaving Ireland John suffered from a severe attack of smallpox, which was nearly fatal, and before he had fully convalesced he had the measles and whooping-cough. From having been a strong and robust child his constitution, after this illness, remained impaired throughout the remainder of his life.

Young Emmet was educated by Mr. Richard W. Thompson, who was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, and was the master of a noted classical school then located at Flatbush, Long Island, in the State of New York.

When about sixteen years of age he had a severe attack of pneumonia. For nearly a year he was an invalid, but at length he so far recovered his health as to be accepted in 1814 as a cadet in the United States Military Academy, West Point.

The following letter is to one of his sisters, and is the only one written during his service at West Point which has been preserved:

WEST POINT, October 22, 1816.

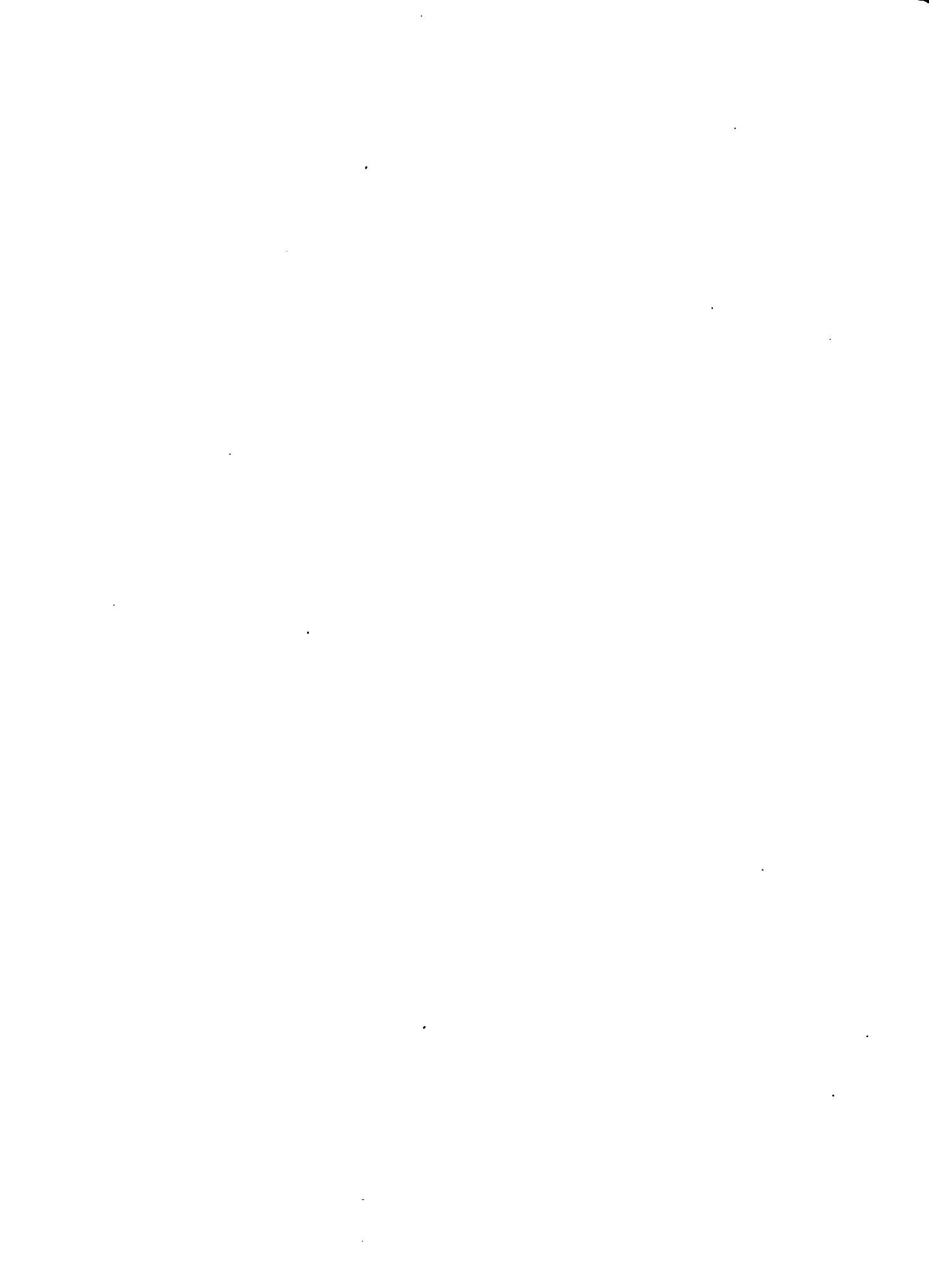
DEAREST JANE:

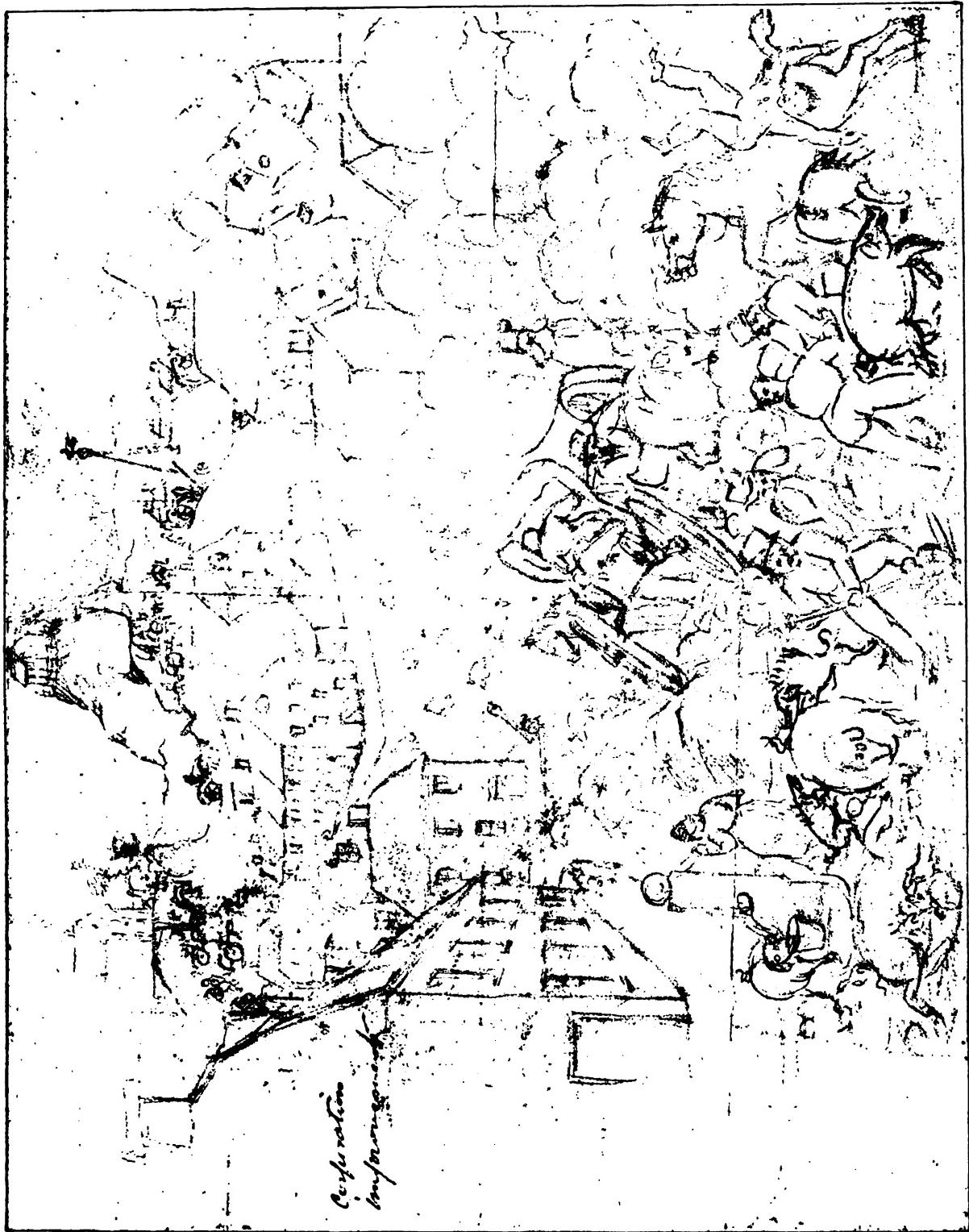
The generous terms you have placed me in are so far from excusing me not writing to you, that I feel doubly deficient in taking advantage of them. I did not receive your last letter until the 21<sup>st</sup>, although dated the 14<sup>th</sup>, owing to the stormy weather, which prevented the boat from landing it.

We have had abundance of rain here, enough for a whole season, so that I had a fair chance of trying my "fear not" and found it waterproof, nearly. There was one disadvantage I was under and against which there is little or no remedy up here, that is the want of shoes. I mentioned them among the other articles, but I suppose they were forgotten. We have been paid off to-day for two months, and our creditors proved wonderfully good-natured and civil, as we had the management of our own debts. Thorp made his bow to me as soon as I was paid, and presented me with a bill for a cool fifty six; for a coat and pantaloons he made me this vacation. I paid him thirty six dollars, walked on and was saluted by the store-keeper, paid him, and ran against the wash-man,—had to acknowledge him and then found that I had run out; those in the rear retired in good order and packed their bills for another time. There was very little else done all day and I resolved not to lose the opportunity of writing to you. I declare, if you will believe me, I was for a long time in doubt who the letter I received came from. I could have sworn it was not yours, for the writing and the composition only tended to deceive me more, until I convinced myself, by the name, that they both belonged to you. If I could only get Mary Ann to write me such a letter I should forgive her all her past silence. I am inclined to think Margaret and she go halves in not saying a word.

West Point begins to lose its agreeable appearance, and the rocks and mountains have already changed their summer clothing for the winter suit of brown, and as the mind's eye is further raised, a close examination and a *dreary winter* appear in full prospective, but last of all comes no vacation. The first brings all that we have passed through, on its back; the second, with its north-west zephyrs, is sufficient of itself, but when I view the third I find no beauty in it. It seems too harsh to place at any distance, but particularly as it hides all prospect of a visit home and obscures those pleasing scenes we must for ever feel delight in. The Examination I have no doubt will prove very strict and must not be neglected. There is a book I wish Tom would procure for me, that is Holyday's Fluxions; if he can't find this he must endeavor to send me some other good book on the subject. If he asks Papa he will tell him the best. Dear Jane, this letter should be entirely intended for you were it not that I have just received Elizabeth's and feel it impossible to proceed without dividing it in part with her, you know I am but a poor debtor and must act according to my abilities. You must be loving and not fight, be full of *Pathos* to each other; but if you can't agree stand at arms length and read it, after which the best way will be to toss up who shall have it, and if this don't do I beg Margaret, who is always very cool on such occasions, may decide.

Dear Elizabeth, I must agree with you that Tom is a great plague to all harmony and *melting moods*; it is impossible to foresee what he will come to in the end. I have seen him at a time, a most critical time, when Margaret was at one of those lofty *never come down notes* in Marmion, and Mr. Ludlow sky high with sympathy, throw a sofa cushion upon some unlucky key that marred the whole. If his friend can not drill him I don't know who can. For my part I can acquit myself of all such malicious tricks and recollect but one instance of the kind, and that was when you were





AN ORIGINAL SKETCH BY JOHN PATTEN EMMET, FROM WHITE ST. AND BROADWAY LOOKING TOWARDS CANAL ST., SHOWING THE POSITION OF BAVARD'S HOUSE.

going away, Margaret, Jane, Mary Anne and all fell a weeping, when I for novelty sake laughed at them so heartily, that Jane made me a horrid hog on all occasions, and Mary Anne a dirty beast. However, I am inclined to think we have all made up again by their attention in sending me those Pears and Apples. The provisions you have sent have seen a merry life and therefore not a long one and I don't know but what I have measured the time of your precautions tolerably exact.

There is nothing that I need now except those things I have last mentioned; however, you need not think that by this I mean to say that anything you send up will not be acceptable, but I feel so grateful for those you have sent, that I must not ask for anything else. There is an old promissory condition in letter writing that I must put the family to. The Post Office has opened a new regulation respecting letters which oblige us to pay for them on the spot. Now, although the price is but small, it is at times just as difficult to get out of the pockets. This is but a poor plan for a person that has anything of consequence in a letter, where he may be poor in one case but rich in the other and still not able to pay his debts with either.

We have been looking for segars some times as mine have given out, and though I have one in my mouth at this time I don't feel half the man I did with one of those Tom sent me. I am very sorry we will have no vacation and am afraid I shall forget all my drawing. Mr. Milbert is not in town at present I believe, but when he does return I imagine it would be better to send him those engravings I have of his. If you should chance to see him at any time you can let me know. You must not be surprised this winter if I get sick and come home, for I am so vexed about this affair that nothing is too difficult to overcome it. The idea of staying here is not relished by the Cadets and I doubt whether we won't all be burnt out in keeping ourselves warm. Give my love to all at home.

J. P. EMMET.

Miss Jane Emmet,  
No. 9 Nassau St., New York.

The young cadet expressed the fear that he would forget all his drawing. About this time and while on a visit home, he, to keep his hand in, made the sketch which has been reproduced and which he termed "Corporation Improvements." While it is made in the spirit of a caricature, it is doubtless a correct representation of that part of the city at White Street and Broadway, looking north, as it appeared while the work was going on.\* This drawing was copied as an illustration for Mrs. Lamb's "History of the City of New York."

Mr. Emmet had already become so proficient in his knowledge of mathematics that before the termination of his service he was detailed an Acting Assistant Professor. While at West Point, in 1816, Cadet V. M. Lowe, of New York, the roommate of Cadet Emmet, was killed by a rocket stick. His class erected to his memory several years afterwards what is now called

\* At that time Broadway terminated at Canal Street and was impassable, as the way was greatly lowered by cutting down the high hills to fill up the Collect Pond. Lispenard's farm was to the west of the road and Bayard's was to the east, near the Bowery. "The improvement" was chiefly on the Bayard place, and the residence was left for a time, as shown in the sketch, perched upon a small knoll of ground, little larger than was sufficient to support the house. On the other hand, as the progress of lowering the hills was slow, it would seem as if individual enterprise had excavated to the grade of Canal Street a sufficiently large enough hole and had erected the French Church at the bottom of it, for the sketch shows that this building was put up long before the back country was graded.

the Cadet Monument, the design of which was drawn by Mr. Emmet, and they also selected him to deliver the oration at the funeral of his friend, which was afterwards printed, but no copy is known to have been preserved.

Boynton, in his "History of West Point," does not give Mr. Emmet's name among the list of Acting Assistant Professors of Mathematics, nor does he go back in his list to the date of Emmet's service, and doubtless this, as well as other omissions, are due to a subsequent fire which destroyed a greater part of the records.

The following order, in the possession of the writer and found among his father's papers, is unquestionable proof that Mr. Emmet did hold the position of Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics at West Point:

## ORDERS.

WEST POINT, April 3, 1817.

None of the mathematical classes are in future to be dismissed from the Recitation Rooms to go to their quarters sooner than ten o'clock in the morning. And none at that time except those who attend the French Academy at eleven o'clock,—all the others are to remain until the recitations are complete. Each Instructor in the Mathematical Department will keep a roll of his class on which he will designate the names of those who attend the French Academy at eleven o'clock. Each Instructor will also report to the Command<sup>d</sup> Officer all those actually absent from recitation in their respective classes.

A. PARTRIDGE,  
Capt<sup>t</sup> Comng.

To Acting Assistant  
Prof. J. P. Emmet,  
Present.

Shortly after this date Mr. Emmet's health became so impaired that he was obliged to seek a milder climate, and consequently he was unable to complete his course at West Point. Several of his testimonials have been preserved, which show that he had held a position most creditable to himself, and that he would have graduated with honor if he could have remained through the prescribed course of study. These certificates are as follows:

I do hereby certify that Cadet John P. Emmett of the U. S. Military Academy passed through the course of Engineering with great credit to himself and that he displayed in his studies a genius which made his professors proud of having such a scholar under their direction.

CROZET,  
Prof<sup>r</sup> of Engineering.

West Point, June 30, 1817.

And the following is of particular interest from a noted officer then in command :

The bearer hereof, Mr. John Emmett, has been a student of the Military Academy of the U. States, and part of the time in the Philosophical Class under my direction.

Mr. Emmett's conduct was always very correct and honorable. As a proficient in Philosophy, he was one of the first in his class, distinguished by a luminous and comprehensive view of that science. In all other branches of learning taught at this Academy, he has the reputation of excelling, and I have no doubt will be found well qualified for entering on almost any business or profession.

JARED MANSFIELD,

West Point, Nov. 24th, 1817.

Prof. of N. & E. Phil. Mil. Academy.

Mr. Emmet spent a year abroad, and during a greater portion of the time he was in Italy, where he devoted himself to the study of the Italian language and to improving an already advanced stage of proficiency in music, painting and sculpture.

In a dare-devil spirit, of which Mr. Emmet gave frequent evidence in early life by his taste for practical jokes, he appeared at the Carnival in Naples as the Devil. This episode of his life proved nearly a fatal one, as he was set upon by a mob and so severely punished that he was made an invalid for several months afterwards. The costume was a black elastic one, which fitted closely to the body and was pulled on through an opening in the back of the neck, which was covered by a fold of the hood. The tail was the chief feature, and Mr. Emmet, anticipating difficulty and seeking to furnish a means of defense, put at the extremity a lump of lead. In this lead, while in a fluid state, he had placed a large number of pins and needles so that they were firmly set when it cooled, with their points sufficiently projecting from the surface to furnish a very formidable weapon if wielded as a slingshot. Owing to his forethought, by providing so effective a weapon, he was able to defend himself at the Carnival until he was rescued in a most exhausted condition.

Dr. Emmet returned home early in 1819 and began the study of medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then a part of the University of New York, and now forming the Medical Department of Columbia University, under the direction of Dr. William H. Macneven, the Professor of Chemistry. Having been appointed Dr. Macneven's assistant, he devoted a greater portion of his time to that special study. But for his indomitable energy he would never have completed his medical studies, for his health remained so much impaired that during the winter he was frequently confined to his house for weeks. But this time was not lost, as he fitted up a laboratory in his father's house, where he applied himself assiduously to the study of chemistry. Moreover, he began to show the same taste for mechanical pursuits which became so prominent in after life, and he evidently received ready aid from his father, who had a similar bent of mind. Miss Margaret Emmet, the eldest daughter, writes at this time to her sister, Mrs. Le Roy:

"Papa's stove mania gets worse and worse every day, but he has certainly made the house most comfortable, and his only anxiety is how to dispose of the superfluous heat. Among other charming *knick-knacks* he has contrived a place to hatch eggs while the house is warming, and if he should only succeed I think John and Papa would get out of their wits with pleasure, for they go hand in hand in all these contrivances."

The date of Dr. Emmet's graduation is shown by the following extract taken from a letter written by Mr. Robert Emmet, January 11th, 1822, to his brother-in-law, Mr. Wm. H. Le Roy, at Potsdam, N. Y.: "John has been examined and admitted a Doctor of Medicine to-day. I am just called to go and make whiskey-punch for a little merry-making which has arisen from John's promotion, and have only time to tell you we are all well."

His inaugural dissertation was "The Chemistry of Animated Matter." This was a treatise of one hundred and twenty octavo pages, which was printed by the college as the thesis selected from those of the graduating class of that year by the faculty to be publicly discussed. Dr. Henry William Ducachet, of the same class, who became afterwards an Episcopal clergyman and distinguished in Philadelphia, was designated to refute the views advanced by Dr. Emmet. But it was held that the author had successfully defended his position.

On January 19th, 1822, his brother Tom writes to his sister in Potsdam: "John had a few symptoms of a return of his complaint, but he confined himself so closely to the house that they have passed off. He, however, will leave this for Charleston in eight or ten days. His health is pretty good, but as we have not yet had any severe weather and as the spring would be the worst weather for him, Papa wishes to send him away. He goes for the purpose of avoiding, not to recover from sickness, but he will not return till late next spring. He will see Ludlow in Charleston, who no doubt will make his time very pleasant. What has contributed as much as anything to keep him so well is that he has gone through his Examinations, which he did with much credit to himself. So much so that when it came to the turn of one of the Professors to examine he declined, giving as a reason that he was perfectly satisfied that it would be useless to examine him as his knowledge had been sufficiently tested. He is now a Doctor, and it has put him in very good spirits."

On reaching Charleston Dr. Emmet soon decided to make it his permanent residence and to commence there the practice of his profession.

Shortly after he writes the following amusing letter to Mrs. Emmet, the wife of his brother Tom, congratulating her on the birth of her first child:

CHARLESTON, S. CA.: March 14th, 1824.

MY DEAR ANNA:

Having just learned that there have been great things doing at your house since my departure, I cannot refrain, in humble imitation of the Wise Men of the East, from offering my tribute of sincere love to you and your first born. I have no myrrh or gold to offer, but anything in the shape of Drugs and Physic is entirely at your service; and howsoever great the dose you may be assured that my inclination will be greater. I have something of a Prophet's fancy in these matters, for in my last letter to Jane, even before I was aware of my being an Uncle to one more hopeful, I concluded my valedictory by desiring to be remembered to all both great and small.

It pleases me very much to know that the chick is a Boy. I like nephews for the sake of whipping them; besides they always bring another emmet to the swarm. But though I love a Niece full as much, she can never be counted upon, for in some unlucky hour she may happen to get married, and they take away an emmet. Either of them, however, from you my dearest Anna, would be sufficient to swell my heart with joy. And on the present occasion as soon as I knew from Jane's letter, that everything had gone on so delightfully, I took down my worthy Barney's cremona from the peg and struck up "Come, haste to the wedding" not knowing any more suitable to the occasion, and danced myself into a small fever,—which would have been much more agreeable to my nervous system had there been any music in the confounded fiddle. But I was so rejoiced at the happy tidings that I could have drawn Bow over the Devil himself, merely for the sake of the noise. And although a very small dose of my fiddle generally proves enough for several hours, I hope as the Quaker sayeth in the play to "rub the tail of the horse on the Bowels of the Cat" again and again for the sake of the newcomer. I would give a great deal to be at home just now, as I have a host of pithy remarks to make. To see his claret nose, take his altitude and find his solid contents by some Grocer's sugary scale, would be extremely gratifying. But a great distance keeps me from the magnum opus, and there is nothing left but idle words and worlds of ifs. I suppose his name and profession are already cut out for him, so that it would be idle for one "hors de combat" to open his mouth on the subject. But as I can give my opinion at present, without opening my mouth, I shall take the liberty of insinuating a hint or two. With regard to name and title, I take it for granted the hero will be called James Macneven Emmet, Esq<sup>r</sup> of White Street, or Wm. Tom Emmet, Esq<sup>r</sup> of Place aforesaid. But if all these proposed contortions of family names should be rejected, I may remark that as there are so many claimants you will be compelled, to please all parties, to string all together like a bunch of onions and overpower the dawning faculties of the youth by the two foot and a half name of Bill, Jim, Tom, Macneven, Addis Emmet, Esq<sup>r</sup>—as aforesaid; unless you prudently resolve upon the no contemptible one of John Patten Emmet.

Thomas Addis Emmet is certainly getting to be too common and besides to judge by the noddle of the youngest representative, it will be confined to Lawyers and Attorneys, whereas I hope that your Boy will worship the Gilt head of Galen. As to profession I think that the youth should be consulted. I would therefore recommend that he begin a course of medicine, and if he takes the *stuff*, as Bob does Castor Oil without turning up his nose or making unbecoming faces, you may look upon it as an unerring sign, that he can only flourish in a mortar. If he can stand probing and to have the bread taken from his mouth when he gets it, without thinking it a *piece* of injustice, he may do for a lawyer. If he can live by sucking his paws, and seem contented, he will do for a Parson as such worthies seldom have much more to live upon. If he shows greater pleasure at the sight of cash than accounts, and if he can get up as well as ever, after half a dozen falls and other failures, and if moreover he can manage to keep the *Balance* always in his own favor, he may thrive as a Merchant. This last test, however, must lie over until he has some *footing to set out upon*. Lastly, if the youth shews a strong propensity for sleeping and exhibits no turn for anything in par-

ticular, but yawns and makes sweet faces as if *inwardly* pleased, which, however, I think does not seem likely from some specimens I have elsewhere seen, he may turn out a fine gentleman. You have now my dear Anne, the essence of my wisdom.

I should like to be Godfather to the little man, but I fear that will never happen. However, as his uncle I shall ever feel delighted to know that he meets every trial with fortitude and to see him an intelligent man when you and I are shaking our grey locks and dealing out, for his edification, proverbs and maxims of the "good old times."

Your affectionate Brother,

J. P. EMMET.

Mrs. Anna R. Emmet,  
Care of Thos. A. Emmet, Jr., New York.

Shortly after writing the above Dr. Emmet, in a letter to another member of the family, stated that in consequence of much leisure time on his hands which he could not utilize in the practice of his profession, owing to a want of appreciation on the part of the Charlestonians, he felt tempted to deliver for the people a course of lectures on the sciences. The following letter to his sister Jane refers, among other matters, to the same subject:

CHARLESTON, May 22nd, 1824.

MY DEAR JANE:

I received your letter of the eleventh yesterday, but not without an anticipation of several days. I am sorry to learn that Anna has been unwell, both for her own sake and mine, for I hoped to have had some of her penmanship in the course of Providence. I shall regret sincerely if she makes it more serious than the song "Blankets and pins &c." authorises her.

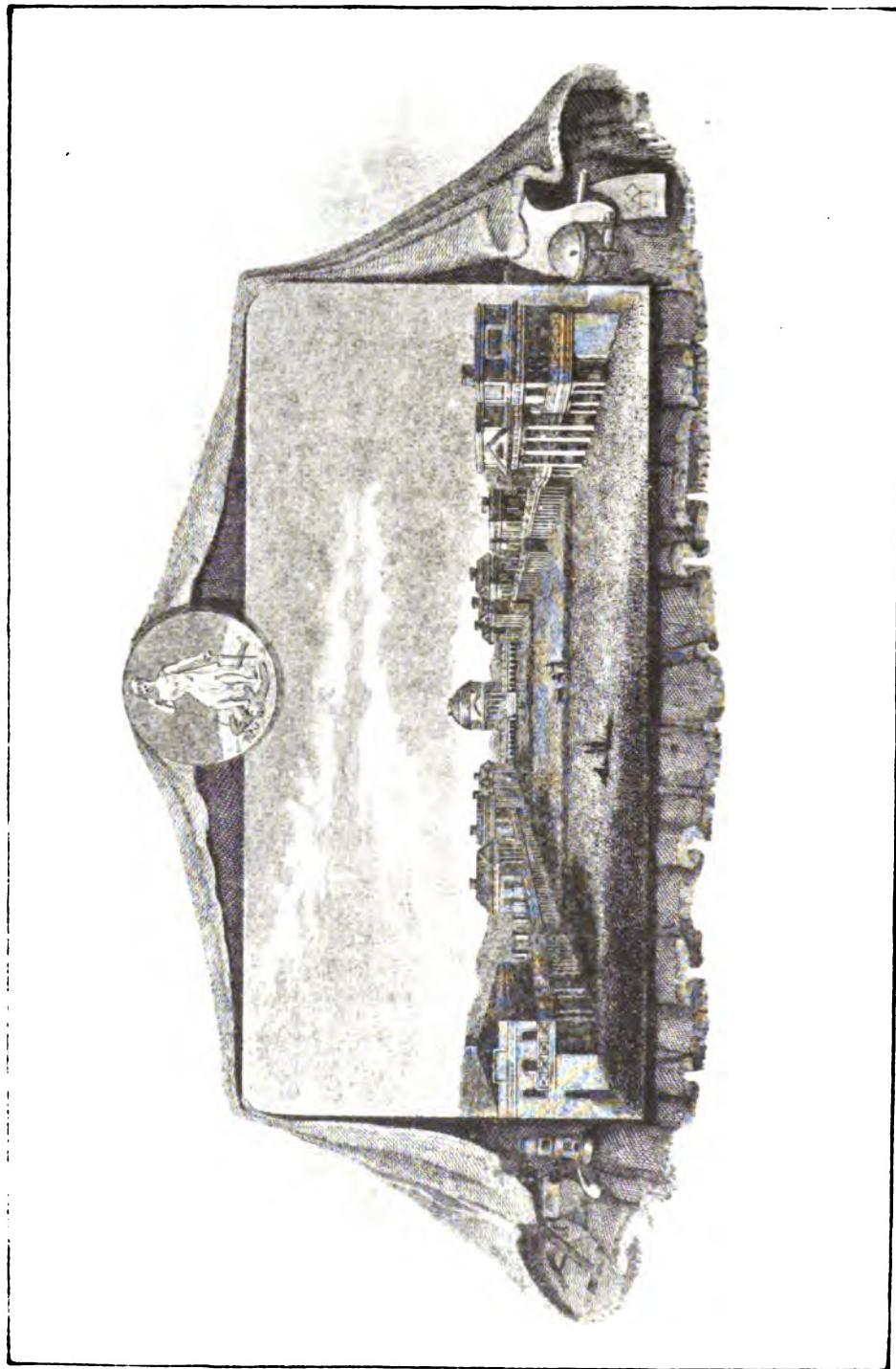
Among the sisterly wishes which adorn your letter to me, dear Jane, I recognize your old hobby of a "rich wife" for me,—'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished—but you know that while the wind blows off shore there is no making a landing, and faith I am so out of provision just now that I dare not venture to take any one on board. Friend Wilkens had done very little indeed; he has an amiable wife hanging on one arm and a full purse, with both strings in his hand, acting as a counterpoise on the other side. With regard to mental treasures I am unable to speak as the lady rarely ever opens her mouth for a reason common enough in the South, and which I might mention were I anyway given to scandal. I may say this much, however, from my own observation, that although she has good looks and lots of fresh fodder, I should always have been Ass enough to prefer chewing my own dockroots. However, "non disputandum de gustibus," is a proverb that can season any dish and it is as good a foundation for appetite as a glass of Stoughton's Bitters. It is considered a very lucky hit when Northern gentlemen marry in the South, for there is great jealousy towards them notwithstanding that they generally, in a year or two, rid the good people here of the presence both of themselves and wives. It may be new to you to hear that there is a vast deal of match making among members of great families in this place. Each house generally furnishes two or three young beaux, who for the sake of pride have been educated in idleness and for that of family and name, are afterwards compelled to look out for money matches as the only hope of existence. These booby-puppies snarl like curs when they have had a bone taken away from them, if an heiress should bestow her hand upon a stranger.

Now we Northern dogs like the picking of a rib as well as they do, and generally with success bully them out of it. This, and nothing else, more so, keeps the kennel in an uproar, but thank heaven there has been more snarling than biting as yet. You may, perhaps, suppose from the description that I write *feelingly*, but you may be better assured that the prospect of wealth alone, will never induce me to join in the hue and cry. My dear Jane, it is extremely gratifying to me to find in every letter your affectionate wish that I should make a home visit during a part of the summer. Be assured it is with great reluctance that I deny myself the pleasure. I need not repeat the argument which I have already used. Yet it is not my intention to be rash or hazardous.



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

*From an early Diploma.*



There is a state of my affairs which may lead me homewards, though I confess it seems remote. If the Yellow Fever should visit Charleston this summer, it will be an unwarranted risk for me to remain in the city, even supposing that increase of Practice should make amends for a steady exposure to this most fatal disease. If I have to retire, there is but one place in the neighborhood where I could stay. Then the expense of living would infinitely exceed my income from practice as there are at least a dozen Physicians. The sum which I now have to pay every two or three weeks amounts to more than my passage home, and during that time if I stayed I might not make as much as a dollar. I have concluded therefore to visit you all again if the yellow fever makes its appearance.

This I am induced to do, by another consideration. I have been requested by a great many gentlemen and I feel very much inclined myself, for the sake of reputation, to give a course of Chemical lectures next winter. I shall have at least thirty persons to attend them and at even ten dollars a piece can meet the expenses of apparatus. I am desirous of going on to see about it myself, if possible. But as that will at all events be late in the season I have written to Tom to speak to the Doctor [Macneven] on the subject. I hope he will not delay and if the things have to be paid for, I would much prefer the Doctor writing for them to Paris, immediately, as they must be in Charleston, by October next, and will thus be obtained at a much less cost. I wish Tom would let me hear from him on this subject. Mr. Ludlow will in a few days set sail for New York, with his wife and mother, and I sincerely wish they may find as much sociability from my friends as they have shown to me. Give my love to all.

J. P. EMMET.

Miss Jane E. Emmet,  
Care T. A. Emmet, Esq., New York.

Dr. Emmet evidently acted promptly, and did deliver a course of public lectures, which became so popular as to attract the attention of Mr. Jefferson.

A Board of Trustees had been formed about 1815 to establish the Albemarle Academy in Virginia. The plan was soon changed to the Central College, and finally the University of Virginia was decided upon. Mr. Jefferson, as one of the Board of Trustees of the Central College, had been in communication with Dr. Thomas Cooper, the friend of Priestley, who then held the Chair of Chemistry in the University of South Carolina, and had accepted the same position in the Virginia College. Some difficulty arose when the plan was changed to the University of Virginia, and a settlement was effected with Dr. Cooper by which he withdrew from the new position which he had already accepted. On Dr. Cooper's appointment to the Central College Dr. Emmet applied for the vacancy in South Carolina. On hearing of his application the whole faculty of the Medical School of the University of New York, where Dr. Emmet had graduated, united in the following flattering memorial of his qualification for the Professorship of Chemistry. As Dr. Cooper returned to his old place, it was of course not used, but it remains an honorable testimonial:

NEW YORK, 15th of April, 1823.

Dr. John Patten Emmet began his studies at the University of New York under my special direction four years ago; and owing to his previous excellent education and his proficiency in Mathematical knowledge, was at once employed in my laboratory as an assistant in the preparation

of my experiments and in a great variety of processes in operative chemistry. During the later period of his studies he conducted several original investigations with no less ingenuity than precision. In consequence of all of which things I have no hesitation in giving him this certificate of his ample fitness for discharging the functions of Professor of Chemistry with reputation to himself and to any school in which he may officiate. For his attainments in other departments of the physical sciences he is also entitled to high commendation, and more especially as qualifying him for a Professor's Chair. That to talents of the first order and an enthusiasm for science he unites studious habits, good morals and the manners of a gentleman.

WM. J. MACNEVEN, M.D.,  
Prof<sup>r</sup> of Chemistry.

I concur with my colleagues, from my knowledge and the reasons set forth, in recommending Dr. Emmet to the University of South Carolina for the Chemical chair.

SAMUEL L. MITCHELL, M.D.,  
Prof. of Botany and Materia Medica.

New York, April 15th, 1823.

Dr. Emmet in my opinion is well qualified for the station for which he is a candidate and if elected I believe will reflect great credit upon the College of So. Carolina.

DAVID HOSACK, M.D.,  
Prof<sup>r</sup> of Practice.

I cheerfully concur in recommending Dr. Emmet as every way qualified for the Professorship of Chemistry in the South Carolina College.

VALENTINE MOTT, M.D.,  
Professor of Surgery.

It is with much pleasure that I am afforded the opportunity of recommending Dr. Emmet as eminently qualified for the station of Professor of Chemistry.

WRIGHT POST, M.D.,  
April 15, 1823. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

I must heartily concur in the recommendations set forth by my colleagues in the University. Dr. Emmet having prosecuted his medical studies with ardour and success, received the honors of the College at their Commencement in April last. His general knowledge of his profession warranted the distinction; his chemical attainments eminently qualify him as Professor of Chemistry.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D.,  
Prof<sup>r</sup> of Obstetrics.

After the compromise with Dr. Cooper and his return to the University of South Carolina Mr. Jefferson offered the position to Dr. Emmet, and while he was on a visit to New York Mr. Jefferson addressed the following letter to him :

MONTICELLO, March 6th, 1825.

DEAR SIR:

The board of visitors of the University of Virginia, at their last meeting of the 4th inst., proceeding to the appointment of a Professor for the school of Natural History in that Institution, unanimously nominated you to that chair. Under the general term Natural History, they comprehend Zoology, Botany, Mineralogy, Chemistry, and Geology; that of Chemistry however being considered as the branch most eminently distinctive of the school.

Its emoluments are fifteen hundred dollars a year fixed salary, tuition fees from those of your school from twenty-five to fifty dollars each according to circumstances, and an excellent house and convenient garden grounds for your residence. The tenure of the Professorship is under a Board of Visitors, seven in number, two thirds of whom, say five out of seven, can alone remove a Professor. It is therefore a freehold in fact. But one vacation is admitted, to wit from the 15th



To Doct: John Patten Emmet

By virtue of the authority vested by law in the Rector and Visitors  
of the University of Virginia, they do, by this letter appoint you the said  
John Patten Emmet to be Professor of the School of Natural History in the  
said University, with all the authorities, privileges and emoluments to  
the said Professorship belonging.

Witness Thomas Jefferson, Rector of the said University under  
his hand and the seal of the said University this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 1825.



Thomas Jefferson

of December to the last day of January, and lectures are expected every other day during term. As you are probably a stranger to this establishment, I have thought it right to state to you these particulars. The Institution opens tomorrow, so that in the hope you will accede to our wishes, we shall request your attention as early as possible; and in the meantime ask an answer which may place us on a certainty. Accept the assurance of my great esteem and respect.

THOS. JEFFERSON.

The following is a copy of his commission, written by Mr. Jefferson on a strip of paper forming about half of a quarto sheet of paper:

To DOCTOR JOHN PATTEN EMMET:

By virtue of the authority vested by law in the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, they do, by this letter appoint you the said John Patten Emmet to be Professor of the School of Natural History in the said University, with all the authorities, privileges and emoluments in the said Professorship belonging.

Witness Thomas Jefferson, Rector of the said University under his hand and the seal of the said University this 8th day of April, 1825.

THOS. JEFFERSON. [SEAL.]

Shortly after Dr. Emmet's arrival at the University he wrote the following letter to his sister from Charlottesville, a neighboring town then a mile or more distant,\* where he was evidently at first obliged to reside, in consequence of the unfinished condition of the University buildings. This letter is of particular interest, as it gives his first impressions and a description of Mr. Jefferson:

CHARLOTTESVILLE, May 6th, 1825.

MY DEAR JANE:

I have just received my first tidings from home by a letter from Tom and two from yourself. I need not say that I anxiously awaited them. Immediately upon my arrival here I found so much to do, for myself and Pavilion, that it became utterly impossible to send such an account home as I desired; and even now that I am settled my hours of recreation are very much limited by the necessity of writing Lectures. Under such circumstances I can not be as good a correspondent as my friends, and I hope they know me well enough not to delay for the sake of regularity. I am particularly anxious to give such a description of the University as would be satisfactory to Papa, but we are yet so much in infancy, that it must be an imperfect and unjust one.

I have a plan of the whole premises, filled in with my own observations, but have yet had no opportunity of sending it. With regard to the plan and prospect of Education, I can safely say that the Virginia University will be ranked among the very first in this country. The Professors are all eminent in their departments and the Library now forming will be selected from the most valuable stock in Europe and America.

William [his younger brother] must certainly come on, but I think it will be better for him to wait 'till next year. The students are still without text books and altho' attentive and orderly, have very many disadvantages in the prosecution of their education. The University is founded upon the most liberal principles, and besides the severer studies offer the greatest advantages for pleasing accomplishments. I have forwarded an advertisement for the Teachers of Music and Drawing, and it may be seen that the very first have been aimed at.†

Indeed I think William will be delighted with the change. Mr. Jefferson is down with us almost every day, and as often invites us to call without formality at his house. But I have already

\* The University of Virginia is now within the corporation limits of Charlottesville.

† Music Hall was a detached building at the northwest angle of the University grounds and situated in the neighborhood of the present chapel. After this building became untenable and was pulled down, Mr. Bigelow, the teacher of music, occupied for many years after a room in the Anatomical Hall, opposite the Western Range.

found that Monticello does not signify a *small* Mountain as might have been expected. I have dined, however, twice with his family since my arrival, and would go oftener, notwithstanding distance and altitude, were it not for lectures, lectures, lectures, &c. He has a most charming prospect from the *clouds*, and commands a full view of the University, which is now his only hobby. He is an extremely pleasant old gentleman and as hospitable as a man can be. We all take the greatest delight in promoting his views, and he has expressed himself well pleased. I do not know that I ever entered on Business with more pride and satisfaction and the day will yet come when it will be a noble source of Pride to be known as the Professor of this promising University.

We have a former President of the United States at its head and two former Presidents among its Board of Visitors.\* These and other circumstances make me desirous to make my situation Becoming, and if I seem to enter upon the outfit expensively I shall have the less to do hereafter. My house will have to be open not only to the visits of Professors, but to all distinguished individuals who will be constantly arriving for the purpose of viewing the University; and I am determined to be in proper order. One room at least, my *sanctum sanctorum*, or Parlour, must have taste, and for this purpose I am willing to "bleed and die." The Study must have something done for it, to cover the walls and floor as it also faces the Portico. Send on the Bills and I shall always be able to judge how things may stand. Recollect, as I have already said, that this is my home for the best part of the year and during that time I shall be liable to numerous and important visits.

I want some fine stockings, black neck handkerchiefs and two or three pair of nankin Pantaloons. Woodhead has my measure. Give my love and remembrance to all.

J. P. E.

Miss Jane E. Emmet,  
Care of Thos. A. Emmet, New York.

Miss Jane Emmet writes to her sister at Potsdam, May 17th, 1825:

John is at length settled in his new Establishment, he is in the highest spirits with every prospect of being the great man of the family. Every one tells us we have reason to feel so vain at such a flattering honor paid to so young a man, which so many older ones have tried for in vain. The college is on a more splendid scale than any one in America. They have sent to Europe for Professors and Masters, at the most expensive price, so that John will be in high company. I received a letter from him last night desiring us to send him on furniture for his house, two very handsome carpets, oil paintings in frames, chimney ornaments, &c., in short everything in the gayest style, so that we may say with the Vicar of Wakefield: "The family begins to look up a little."

Dr. Emmet again writes to his sister an interesting account of his prospects and of his difficulties:

CHARLOTTESVILLE, June 15th, 1825.

MY DEAREST JANE:

I have just received your last kind letter and altho' constantly occupied in preparing my lectures, can not let the present opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks for your perseverance go by unnoticed. You are indeed a good and constant correspondent. Go on, I entreat you, and if others cannot write me without a stimulus, I shall still turn to your letters with the warmest feelings of love. My friends surely know how little time I have to devote to regular correspondence, and they cannot therefore be so formal as to measure lines with me. I can not hope, for anything hitherto noticed, that they will adopt your generous rule of writing once a fortnight under all kinds of disappointments, but I really had hopes that one letter at least, for mere experiment, would have reached me before this period. Whatever irregularities I may exhibit in return are such as result from necessity; and I have too often said how much I value such letters from home, to leave any doubt of their being most acceptable when they arrive. Do you, Dearest Jane, continue

\* Thos. Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe.

your good example and I shall admire your resolution as much as I now value your affection. I have this day received some of my furniture, &c., with a letter from Tom, to whom I feel most thankful for his attention.

I am going on very well in my new vocation, and altho' I really earn the salary by the sweat of my brow, I feel a great degree of pleasure in the task. I look with joy towards the time when I shall again visit you all and appear at last as a Being of some consequence.

As you will feel great pleasure in knowing my progress, I must become so far an egotist as to send some particulars. The University even at this early period may be said to be flourishing; there are at least seventy students not only from Virginia but from the Southern States. We have already taken several of this number from the neighboring University of Hampden and Sydney and continue to increase. Altho' I arrived late and altho' the students were under the impression that the Professor of Natural Philosophy would also be Professor of Chemistry, I have a class of twenty-eight and a most flattering prospect for next year. I take a great deal of pains with my lectures and write them out at length. Altho' my room is not opened publicly to others than my class, it is generally filled and not unfrequently so much so, as to render the temperature oppressive. This is a flattering circumstance and sufficiently proves that my subject is popular.

I do not, however, wish to take much attention to myself. The other Professors, and particularly Mr. Bonnycastle, Professor of Natural Philosophy, may boast of the same kind reception. I entertain a very warm friendship for Mr. B. and shall undoubtedly bring him home with me next vacation. He is unmarried, and altho' not handsome, is so amiable, gentleman like and well informed, that he cannot fail being highly esteemed when once known.

Respecting the counterpanes and other things alluded to in your letter, it is only necessary to say that sooner or later they must be procured and as I may have persons visiting me whom I should like to ask to stay and sleep, I think it better to get them at once. My shirts are beginning to have the transparency of muslin but as they are not fine enough to pass for such, I wish to have a large collection of fine collars sent to me. Take Tom's neck as a measure and let them tie behind. I also stand in need of stockings, so let me have some fine ones. Here I must conclude both letter and commissions. Tell Bache that I have received his memento and admire his agricultural effusions upon rakes, hoes, and hammers. I cannot say I think as highly of his silence hitherto, but he must give an account of that himself. Give my love to all. Tell mamma that I shall never rest until she pays me a visit at the University. When fixed I hope to have a visit from you all, from year to year. God bless you, my dear Jane.

J. P. EMMET.

Miss Jane E. Emmet,  
Care T. A. Emmet, Esqr., New York.

In the following letter Dr. Emmet gives his sister a fair outline of his daily work at the University:

UNIVERSITY OF VA., April 2nd, 1827.

MY DEAREST JANE:

The monotony of my occupation and the very little actual novelty existing to put anything in a letter sufficient to repay you for the trouble of reading it. To say "I am well" comprises very nearly all that can interest you unless you are willing to take a "Lecture."

Bache in his letter to me gave me such a slash about my "pressure of business" that I am almost afraid to urge it as an excuse for not having answered you before. Yet like an honest man, I can declare this is the cause.

Experience has sufficiently proved to me that I read in two hours as much as I can possibly write in three days without killing myself. I am actually compelled, therefore, to write without flagging. To add to the direful necessity a change is likely to take place in my department by which I will be required to lecture upon a new subject, Materia Medica.

The consequence will be that the lectures already written upon my present courses must count nothing and new ones must be made. All this is work for the next session; and so heavy will it

be, that I feel hardly courageous enough to entertain the hope of going home during the Summer vacation. I am glad that there is a prospect of this alteration as I will then "teach the young idea how to shoot," in Chemistry and Materia Medica, instead of struggling with that Monster of *many heads* Natural History. I know very well that "tall oaks from little acorns grow," but there are so many of these oaks and so very little time to plant the acorns, that one hand is not enough. When all my lectures are finished, I shall moult and commence fresh life.

Hitherto I have toiled like the Irishman in the open Sedan chair, and "if it were not for the honor of it, would as soon be walking." In the way of recreation I am still limited,—the fiddle cures despondency and Satan [his violoncello] smothers despair and fury amid its roar—I have the bust [one made by Dr. E. of his father] mounted on one of my tables with the crooked corner of the mouth to the leeward, and I feel sincerely gratified in recognizing its familiar features. It is indeed an excellent likeness and I value it more than all I possess.

I have not had time to indulge in the promised lithographic caricatures to which Bache alluded, but the time must come. My great recreation is working in my garden and I am anxiously looking for the fulfilment of Anna's commission. If the plants have not yet been forwarded, I wish you would call and select some handsome flower seeds. Let the choice be yours and not Thorburn's. Tell Tom that I am obliged to add to his commissions. I am so badly provided with books on Materia Medica that he must purchase Murray's and Eberlie's works on the subject. I want also the last edition of Thomson's Chemistry. If he has not boxed up the articles, you can put the flower seeds in and then, if he has any regard for his character let him forward them *instanter*.

My dear Jane as you and Bache are one you may let him look over your shoulder while you are reading this, in order that he may fully understand that he is to divide it with you, in return for his writing to me on a bit of your letter.

How does half price charity come on? I hope my picture has procured you the *promise* of a penny with five years credit &c. Give my love to all, unless some fair one seems willing to take it all, but don't advertise, farewell.

JOHN P. EMMET.

P. S. I have received Robert's double letter, paid the postage and had the unbounded satisfaction of finding that it enclosed a Hoax! We repeatedly receive such tokens of remembrance, but this is the first that hailed from Alabama.

In June, 1827, Dr. Emmet became engaged to be married to Miss Mary Byrd Farley Tucker, a native of Bermuda, who was then, with her mother, visiting her uncle, Mr. George Tucker, the first Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Virginia. Miss Tucker was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Tucker.\*

\* Mr. John H. Tucker, Mrs. Emmet's father, was the youngest son. He was at one time in affluent circumstances, but in consequence of the long-continued war between England and France, during the early part of this century, his fortune as a merchant in Bermuda became greatly reduced. Having been captured on one of his own vessels, out as a privateer, he was held a prisoner of war for several years in one of the French West India islands. On his release he was taken to England and was induced there to accept as a temporary employment a position in the paymaster's department of the British army in Portugal. But shortly after he joined the army he died on November 23d, 1811, from a fever which was then devastating the British troops. His wife, Mrs. Eliza J. Tucker, was a woman of remarkable ability, with a strongly-marked character and of great worth, for which she was respected and greatly beloved by all who had the good fortune to have known her. She possessed the mind of a logical man, with all the instincts of a woman in its application. The writer was for the first nine or ten years of his life under almost the sole charge of his grandmother, in consequence of the bad health of his mother, and her precepts and training at this early age made an indelible impression on him, strengthened afterwards by the loving remembrance of her many virtues.



JOHN H. TUCKER.







MARY BYRD TUCKER EMMET.

The letter from Dr. Emmet to his sister announcing his engagement is the first expression we have from him of unalloyed happiness, a state which continued unbroken for a period of fifteen years of married life:

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, June 17th, 1827.

MY DEAREST JANE:

In the course of my communications I have at length come around to you. You are I know incapable of thinking that such delay was neglect and must feel satisfied by this time how completely you possess my sincerest affections. Indeed I am already infinitely happy at the prospect of soon possessing a companion strongly resembling you in her mind and loving disposition. You can not refrain from giving her your hand and heart the first moment you see her. In figure, walk, dance and dignity of manner she strongly reminds me of Mary Anne and the resemblance fills me with sincere delight. Her complexion is dark, true West Indian, but she has the most beautiful set of teeth that a woman can have. Her eyes are mild, soft and black, beautifully expressive of the modesty of her manners. I could go on thus for ever, but I feel that *my description* will be considered exaggerated. She has also lately been so unwell that at present she possesses nothing of a complexion once the most striking that I ever saw. She will, perhaps, go among you an invalid, but a cordial and affectionate reception will soon restore her and make her the happiest of Beings.

It is strange beyond my power of reason, why I have so long refrained from offering myself to so sweet a creature as my Mary. Duty was ever my first leading impulse. I placed myself under cold and formal restraint in order to fulfil my duties as a Professor; and most assuredly had I yielded before, the Lover would have ruined the Professor.

I managed it differently from necessity. I assumed an indifference and steadily toiled until the lectures for the season were written. I then opened my heart clearly to her by a proposition wholly unexpected from my former conduct. Yet judge how happy I was to find that her heart had been mine before, tho' so disguised that nothing but our mutual love revealed it. I never knew myself before. I once thought that my wife should be musical, yet she will possess nothing but a liking for it. I now think that I have all that a wife should have to make her forever dear to her husband,—*your* affectionate disposition. But I must talk to you of something else. We are so situated up here that no suitable purchases can be made for our wedding. I mentioned that I was sending to New York for things and begged to execute other than my own commission. Do you, Jane, purchase for me three pairs of ladies white kid gloves, long ones, and three pairs of short ones; six pair of men's white gloves and a piece of broad white satin ribbon for what is technically called *favours*, send plenty.

The Wedding ring I must again notice. I took the measure of her finger by the self same ring which you gave me five or six years ago. Let it be a thick double ring and of the purest gold. This measure is perhaps too small as the finger is now unusually thin. I suppose a ring too small may be afterwards stretched by the jeweller without diminishing the force of wedlock, but we must never afterwards change it. I have another commission for you in favor of a most esteemed friend at this place, one of the professor's wives. She is desirous of procuring a handsome, fashionable bunch of ostrich feathers.

Use your taste, dearest Jane, and remember you are obliging a most affectionate brother. Let all the things written for be forwarded at once. No time can be lost. I expect William up as Groomsman, he will officiate with one of his old companions, St. George Coulter. Charles McEvers must also come for the sake of Galen and the recollection of that cutting soda water which I once administered to him. I cannot promise that I will be able this time to vault across the table with him,\* or even to pitch into a corner with some dozens of custards &c., but he will be heartily

\* In explanation of this allusion the writer recalls a very amusing account, given him by his father, of a scene at the wedding of his brother Tom to Miss Anna Tom, which took place March 4th, 1823. Shortly before the supper hour Dr. Emmet and Mr. Charles McEvers had occasion to go into the dining-room—possibly the punch-bowl was in their charge. The doctor, being very active and slight, bantered Mr. McEvers, who was not agile or a light-weight, to follow him and vault across the table. Dr. Emmet got over safely, as he expected to do, but Mr. McEvers was not so fortunate. His hands slipped in some way and he fell, upsetting the two large tables where their leaves joined together, thus bringing

welcome. Tell him this and persuade him to come. My wife elect expects Mary Anne for her bride's maid. I have had a generous offer of accommodation for her from one of the professor's wives so that she will I hope come and confirm my happiness. If she thinks of anything that may be useful upon the occasion, let her bring it, for we are in a poor place for purchases.

J. P. EMMET.

Immediately on the reception of the above letter his sister Jane, now Mrs. McEvers, must have communicated by letter the intelligence to her sister, Mrs. Le Roy.

MIDDLE ROAD, June 19th, 1827.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH:

Altho' my letter has been long coming I am sure you will say that it is the most agreeable one you have received since you left us. I do not intend to trust to my own powers of composition for procuring this delightful effect; I think the plain matter of fact news will do it and as I think my preface has raised your expectations sufficiently high I will come to the point, we expect about the end of next month to be favoured with a visit from Mrs. John P. Emmet! We received a letter last night from John bespeaking white gloves, stockings, pantaloons, &c. &c. summoning us all to his wedding, which is to be as soon after the 20<sup>th</sup> of July as possible. I suppose you would not object to hearing the young lady's name, tho' that is more than John favoured us with; but from the initials and William's help we have found out that her name is Mary Byrd Tucker, a cousin of the Miss Tucker who staid last spring at the Douglas's. William\* says he has been a long time attentive to her and that she has always shown a partiality for John.

The boys of the University had a good joke against her for an involuntary expression of hers. When there was some riot in the college at which the boys were threatening the professors, she exclaimed "Don't hurt my father [uncle] and for God's sake spare Dr. Emmet." William says she is quite pretty, with a good figure, something like Mary Anne's, and of a very high family, but believes no money; so that John will not better himself in that way. However, he seems as happy as man can be and intends coming on here, as soon as he is married, to be merry for a short time and to show us his happiness and his wife together. He is very anxious, he says, to have us all on there at the event. But I do not believe any one will go unless Mary Anne and Tom, if he is able to leave town then, and I should not be astonished if Anna went also. But no other member of the family will be able to go as Robert and Papa are obliged to be in Albany at that time and Bache will be in Canada, or preparing to go. Of course you must not expect me at Potsdam this summer, as I must stay to see my new sister, besides I have taken the management of the house in the country upon myself and it would not do to back out so soon.

It has disappointed me very much, as I am extremely anxious to see the children and all of you. The children here continue quite well and Jane is cutting her teeth without the least trouble. Write me soon and tell me how all do and believe me—

Your affectionate sister,

Mrs. W. H. Le Roy,

Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

JEANNETTE [MCEVERS].

A few days after, on June 24th, his sister Mary Anne, afterwards Mrs. Graves, writes to her sister at Potsdam as follows: "I suppose by this time you must have heard of John's engagement, it startled us all and pleased us. I think a wife is just what he wants, and if she is all he says she

down upon him a host of ices, etc., and deluging himself with the contents of a large punch-bowl, which put out the candles, leaving the room in total darkness. The doctor escaped quickly, and was one of the first of the guests who, attracted by the noise, rushed to the scene of havoc, and, with a splendid exhibition of astonishment, he expressed his sympathy, which added no little to Mr. McEvers's state of speechless indignation. The incident and Mr. McEvers's forlorn condition caused a good laugh, which was compensation enough for the less elaborate supper which was served later.

\* Dr. Emmet's youngest brother, Wm. C. Emmet, had been a student at the University of Virginia the previous year.





1. THOMAS ADDIS EMMET. 2. MRS. T. A. EMMET. 3. ROBERT EMMET, JR. 4. T. A. EMMET AND WIFE. 5. ELIZABETH EMMET. 6. TEMPLE EMMET. 7. JOHN PATTEN EMMET.  
8. JANE ERIN EMMET. 9. MARGARET EMMET. 10. MARY ANN EMMET. 11. WILLIAM C. EMMET.

### AN EVENING AT HOME.

Drawn by John Patten Emmet, October 20, 1818, at the country house of T. A. E. then situated on the "Middle Road," now Fifth Avenue. The house was destroyed on opening Fifty-fourth Street. St. Luke's Hospital was erected on the grounds 1857.

must be all a wife ought to be. She is not musical, that is she does not play on any instrument, but she is very fond of it. From the description I think she must be very handsome. She has a dark skin, but the finest teeth ever seen in a head, at least so the lover says, and beautiful black eyes, a very fine figure, and 'in dignity of manner, walk and dance,' to take John's own words, reminds him of me. In the last letter she sent on a request for me to act as bridesmaid, of course I cannot refuse, and I think Tom and myself will set off the middle of July, as they are to be married the twenty-first of the month. 'Brian O'Linn, his wife and wife's mother' then are to come on and pay us a visit. From William's account I don't think the old lady will add to the pleasure; he says she is one of the 'quality folks.'"

The bridal party set out after the ceremony on a visit to New York, and spent a month at the house on the Middle Road\*. The bride was received into the family circle with open arms, and the visit was one of great satisfaction, not only on this account, but from the opportunity thus offered the husband, as well as his wife, of seeing their most illustrious father, who died suddenly in the following October. Mrs. Tucker was cordially received and fully appreciated. With Mrs. Graves and Mrs. Tom Emmet she frequently corresponded, and continued to do so until her death.

On the return of the party to the University, a visit was paid to their uncle, Mr. Thomas Tudor Tucker, who still held the position of United States Treasurer, residing in Washington, and from some letters yet preserved, it is evident that Dr. Emmet was most fully appreciated by the old gentleman.

Mrs. Tucker gives the following account of her visit with the bridal party to New York, in a letter to her uncle, Judge St. George Tucker, of Williamsburg, Va.:

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Septr. 8th, 1827.

A thousand apologies are due to you, my beloved uncle, for my long silence. My time was so completely engaged when in New York, making purchases, cutting out bed and table linen &c. &c., that I had it not in my power to write a single line to any of my friends in Virginia, except to my brother Henry [Dr. Wm. Henry Tucker], to whom I wrote a short letter after receiving a third from him. I left him quite well and in good spirits, also my son Henry, who went on directly to Hampden Sydney [College].

We set out for New York the day after my dear Byrd was married accompanied by a married brother of Dr. Emmet [T. A. Emmet, Jr.] and a single sister [Mary Anne]. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we had the pleasure of meeting our worthy uncle in Washington [Mr. Thomas Tudor Tucker], and we found a Hack sent by him to take us to his lodgings for breakfast. I was quite surprised to find him looking so young and well. The strong resemblance he bears to my dear departed mother, to

\* Dr. Emmet in 1818 made a sketch which he termed "An Evening at Home," which is here reproduced. It is a faithful but grotesque representation of the family assembled in the parlor of the old house on the Middle Road. And while it is executed in his usual spirit of caricature, the likenesses have been sufficiently preserved to render it easy to identify each individual.

Aunt and Richard, filled my heart with pleasure and pain, notwithstanding I felt more pleasure than I can express to see him. It was a source of much regret that we were obliged to leave him so soon after breakfast, when we set out for Baltimore, and reached New York on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

My beloved Byrd was received with open arms by Dr. Emmet's family, and their reception of me was that of a near relation. They are indeed a most charming family, all accomplished and intelligent, but unaffected and plain in their manners and a more united and affectionate family I have never known. They reminded me so much of your brothers and sisters, and many others of my dear Bermuda friends, that I felt I were with those whom I had known from infancy. The old gentleman is very mild and affectionate in his manners and very agreeable in conversation, and his wife, who is much younger, is very like Cousin Fanny in favor and Aunt Campbell in manners. Having every article for Housekeeping to purchase our time was nearly the whole four weeks taken up with shopping.

We saw, notwithstanding, *all* that was to be seen in such a fine large city; we went to West Point and spent a week at Long Branch, in New Jersey, where we were all made ill for a short time by the extreme cold, not being prepared for the sudden change.

We left New York on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, and were so unfortunate as to be on the steamboat on our way to Baltimore in the storm of Saturday night. My dear Byrd was made so sick by the motion of the Boat that she could scarcely sit up. We arrived, thanks to my Heavenly Father, safely at three o'clock in the morning, and had to walk through the heaviest rain I ever felt to a tavern. In consequence of this we were unable to proceed hither 'till the day after, when we arrived in time to visit my dear Uncle that evening. We breakfasted, dined and drank tea with him the next day, and saw all that was worth seeing in Washington.

We set out the next morning on our journey home, and arrived on Friday last in time for breakfast. My dear Byrd is as busy as a bee and as happy as possible arranging her household matters, and I have been so much engrossed with her that I have never had a moment to myself, or I certainly should have written to you, my dearest uncle, as I intended on my arrival here. I was so fortunate as to meet with a cousin, on board one of the Steam-Boats, from Bermuda, with several others from there. She is a grand-daughter of my uncle James Tucker, lately married to one of the rich Penistones, and traveling for pleasure; she had seen my dear Aunt Betty a short time since and my sisters too. She said my dear Aunt looked better than she had ever seen her and was very well, the complaint in her neck was removed, and our friends were all well.

I am requested by Byrd and by her spouse to present them most affectionately to you, my dear uncle and aunt, and to say how much gratified they both would be if you would, on your way home, make them a short visit; they will not ask you for a long one lest you should refuse. Do, my dear Sir, gratify us all by coming; you cannot think what pleasure it would give us. Dr. Emmet is very anxious to see and know our relations; he is very much pleased with my dear uncle in Washington and very often speaks of him in a way that gives me great pleasure.

I am also requested to remember them to Mr. and Mrs. Cabell,\* and to say they hope she will accompany her good man when the Visitors meet again, and to dear Parke remember us affectionately, if you please. I had determined when I returned to make you a visit for two or three days, but I found both a conveyance and escort was impossible. The latter I would have dispensed with, but the former was not to be obtained, therefore must give it up. It was a source of much regret to us that Elizabeth Coulter should have left Washington on the morning of our arrival, and was expected back on the evening of our departure. I hope she will be prevailed on to visit us; my dear Byrd intends as soon as she is settled to request her to do so, to spend some time with us, and she will have a double inducement, her brother being here. My brother [Prof. George Tucker] is well and looks much improved by his trip; his daughters are still in Lynchburg.

My Dearest love to my good Aunt, to Mr. and Mrs. Cabell and Parke, in which my Byrd and the Doctor combine. Accept the sincere affection of your dutiful and attached niece,

ELIZA J. TUCKER.

Saint George Tucker, Esquire, Warminster, Nelson Co., Va.

\* Mr. Jos. Cabell was one of the Visitors, or Trustees, of the University of Virginia, and married Judge Tucker's half-sister.

Dr. Emmet's residence at the University was the one nearest to the rotunda, on the west side of the lawn. The writer recalls a very amusing description, given by his mother in after years, of how she took possession as a bride. She felt compelled at an early day to make some changes. Her husband, as Professor of Natural History, had gradually accumulated a large number of live snakes, reptiles and other animals indigenous to Virginia, which had free quarters in the establishment. One of the largest and best rooms was devoted chiefly to a collection of snakes, which were retarded somewhat in their movements by having the floor waxed. A brown bear which had been raised from a cub roamed at pleasure through the house and garden; a large white owl also had full liberty of the house and rested for a greater part of the time in his master's room on the top of a high four-post bedstead. The owl was allowed soon to shift for himself, and in time the bear became an addition to the larder, while the snakes were banished in as summary a manner as if St. Patrick had exercised his power to that end.

Her absence in New York after her marriage and the cares of house-keeping after her return prevented Mrs. Emmet until a late date from answering a letter of congratulation received by her from Mrs. Le Roy. The following is a copy of her reply:

UNIVERSITY OF VA., Sept. 19th, 1827.

I received your affectionate letter, my dear Sister, at a time when I was busily engaged in collecting articles for housekeeping; this with others equally indispensable so engaged my time that I deferr'd writing to you until my return here. But so it is, I, like all other young beginners, think I have not time for anything but to attend to my domestic concerns, which are not yet altogether in the train I wish.

The warm and affectionate feelings you express for me, as the wife of your beloved brother, are sincerely reciprocated, and let me assure you of my sisterly regard and affection. To know and love the relations of my dearly beloved husband are among my first wishes, and nothing but our limited time deprived us of the happiness of visiting and becoming personally acquainted with you, sister Margaret and your happy fireside. I must confess that the relations of my dear husband have a strong claim on my affections, but a *large corner* is yet in reserve for you, my dear sisters Elizabeth and Margaret. I hope and trust the time is not very distant when we shall know and love each other with that affection I so much desire. As you all know the worth and excellence of my dearest husband, I shall only say he is *all* that I could wish him, and if I am not happy the fault *must be mine*. In addition to this I have a tender affectionate mother whose aid and counsel is a treasure to me and to whom I feel much indebted for her early instruction in the desirable art of housekeeping, which is now my heart's delight. I am more and more convinced every day that matches are made in heaven, for *chance* never could have directed me in the choice of one who is so well calculated to ensure domestic happiness and comfort, which above all others I prize the most notwithstanding I have all that I could wish or desire to make me happy and comfortable. I still have some anxiety for the health of my beloved husband, who is more delicate than I had expected; I will not however anticipate evil, but enjoy the blessings I have and trust by the aid of my heavenly father and with care and good nursing I shall re-establish his health and good looks again. My dear Mother is still I presume with you, remember me most affectionately if you please, and tell her I will be more happy than I can express to have her with me and shall indeed

be jealous and think I do not possess such a share of her affection, as I had hoped to merit, if she does not pay me a visit. I need not add, to see my worthy father here would give me equal pleasure and happiness, but I fear his avocations in New York will be the means of depriving us of what my dear husband and myself so much desire; this excuse I do not however extend to our Mother, therefore none will be admitted. Good brother William has promised to persuade her, and I must have a visit from her, and it would give my dear Mother also so much pleasure to see her under the same roof.

And now my dear Sister shall I not hope to see you, and your better half, at the University of Virginia? Yes, indeed, you must visit us, nothing else can compensate for the separation from my dear friends in Bermuda, but after being with those of my dearest husband, whose cordial and affectionate reception to me has already won my heart, and I often think with pleasure of the happy four weeks we spent in New York. Tell sister Margaret I shall also expect a visit from her, as the distance from this place is much about the same as Potsdam from New York, and tho' she will have mountains and bad roads to encounter, I shall not excuse her. Kiss your dear children for me and teach them to love me as an Aunt. My best love to Mr. Le Roy and sister Margaret, in which I am joined by my dearest, and my dear Mother wishes her best regards. Accept, my dear Sister, the affection of yours,

Mrs. Wm. H. Le Roy, Potsdam, N. Y.

MARY B. F. EMMET.\*

For an interval of nearly a year there exists no record, among the old letters, of Dr. Emmet and his family circle at the University.

The old house on the Middle Road was about to be abandoned by the family, as all the sons and daughters had married, with the exception of the eldest sister, Margaret, and each member already had his own household; moreover, the death of the father, Mr. Thos. Addis Emmet, during the past year had rendered the establishment no longer necessary. At this time Dr. Emmet, in a letter to his sister, Mrs. McEvers, refers feelingly to the past life at the old house, but at length dispels the "dreams and shadows of the past" by a humorous criticism on the phrenological development of his firstborn:

UNIVERSITY OF VA. (Commenced), August 2d, 1828.  
Finished August 17th, 1828. (Very busy.)

MY DEAREST JANE:

I have received your kind letter last written and I have been compelled to put off my answer in consequence of a great press of business. Among the contents I observe with alarm your toss out of a gig. Never do I wish to hear of such an accident befalling even indifferent persons, having two or three times cut such summersets myself. Neither do I think that Bache is such a mere atom, however he may deceive himself, as to admit of being shot off like a blank cartridge.

Our household gods must have deserted us, for I perceive the members of our large family are widely scattered. The days are gone which were wont to shine upon us in our knot of domestic comfort, and we appear now to be repelled from the common centre,—our house in the country. How I should rejoice in being able to spend my days at the house on the Middle Road and again to rusticate, or rather vegetate, year after year in an old Laboratory uniform, to make experiments and dream of great discoveries. I have always had a good share of enthusiasm, but little or moderate ambition, to seek for domestic comforts and retirement rather than aspire at great things. I would even now resign professorship, honors and all for the means of living to the end of my glass at the home upon the Middle Road, with as many of my dear friends as would volunteer a visit or so. You will perceive, my dearest Jane, that I have not forgotten in this retrospect your

\* Mrs. Emmet's full name was Mary Byrd Farley, after her uncle's second wife, whose mother was Mary Byrd, of Westover, Va., on the James River.

(continued) Augt 2nd / 1828

(continued) Augt 19th / 1828 (very busy)

My dearest Jane

I have received your kind letter last written  
and have been compelled to put off my answer in consequence of  
a great press of business - During the winter I became sick & fulfilling  
your last out of a gig - because I wish to have pleasure & not  
even indifferent pleasure; having thus of late time cut such sumerous  
society - My friends think that Bach is dead and gone, however he  
may still remain a student ofology & off like blank carriage.  
Our household gods must have deserted us - I perceive the meeting  
of our large family are widely scattered. There is no one which can  
wink to their departure in one knot of domestic comfort and we  
appear now to be expelled from the common circle - our home in  
the Country - How I should rejoice in being still left behind my days  
at the old house on the middle road and against resistance or rather  
neglect year after year in an old laboratory in form. What expenses  
I have always had a  
smoke and dream of great things & vagaries - I have always had a  
good heart at the same but little of a moderate ambition. To seek for no  
domestic comfort & creature rather than aspirer a great thing & David  
and own self a propertorship, home and all for the means of living  
and drinking glass at the hand upon the middle road with as many  
of my dear friends as would volunteer a visit or two. You will  
perceive my address of you, that I have at present in the situation  
you have nothing to do but to be seated

to come today & when I write for the purpose as he did of promoting  
education & the like - it is when in fact he was only thinking  
about you - Confident that he was making rapid progress in  
the pursuit of science, I put myself to the inconvenience of letting him  
know of his door way & with all the light of the moon - But no one  
was at the shadow of the gate - He will with no doubt that I have,  
on account of this being a quiet little town, some association  
with the ~~consideration~~ of this very intelligent little boy whom I am  
of my little son - At all events I feel disposed to anticipate the  
desire and wish hope that I may be well satisfied myself  
against a father's carelessness & partiality - And this I have  
concluded upon ~~after~~ Christening him ~~John~~ Charles Edmund  
after our beloved Father but he is to be called simply  
Charles Edmund & with a delicate small white ~~face~~ face & hair  
he has since rapidly increased & now very large & plump &  
heavy - his looks too have agreeably improved his mother  
for he is at present a very good looking boy - indeed he may be  
said to be strikingly so for every body notices it - My opinion is  
however that his beauty will remaine at all events  
for he possesses one of the widest & most expanded foreheads that  
I have ever seen upon an infant - Tom Johnson has a noble  
bold but of so different a character that it is impossible to compare  
them - I at the present period apply the rule of Phrenology  
to him & that Tom Boy will excell in mathematics & science  
I forgot say that Tom Boy will excell in mathematics & science  
fond upon close reasoning while my Chap will become eminent in  
magnet & poetry - For God sake dear Jane let us both  
be the crude speculations for as one thinks less of things at this period  
while there do & much as the young ones do actually differ in their

from most other Children there actually seems the doing thing of the kind  
of boy as upon - Visiting Master Alday ~~now~~ now he goes his  
Mother & myself ~~and~~ & actually did so before he was two months  
old - But while I thus give you the sketch of his Character I must  
also be so candid as to add the bitters - He is the most troublesome  
creature day living - For whole hours will he lie upon his back  
fidgetting about & moving his quick & restless eyes from one object  
to the room to another - Indeed he sleeps so very little that he  
completely his Mother & Father to keep him company during the  
greater part of every night & sometimes it proceeds from an  
Colic but more frequently depends upon an unknown  
cause which makes his little eyes bright when mine are  
diseased with sleep - He is very frequently, ~~and~~ <sup>sometimes</sup> causing both  
him & parents which concievly me that his  
wakesfulness is not always a attack with brain - When  
I consider however, said a friend once w<sup>th</sup> I am filled  
with astonishment that I am able to live upon the scanty allowance  
brought at present - Great as our love for my little fellow will  
seem, I verily believe that it is more beloved by his Grand-mother.  
Mrs. T. who is constantly devouring him with looks and staggering his  
young Comprehension with "small talk" - How gratified ~~she~~  
she could see her son in his Grand-mother's arms at New York  
and cared by his numerous uncles & aunts - She has waited  
a hundred years but the time has not yet come, & perhaps  
never will be fully realized until my friends will Condescend to take  
a trip to Virginia & pay me a visit - I. S. will still cling to the rope -  
we are all along tolerably well at present but I must conclude by presenting  
the warmest love of many a dear mother to our friends in N.Y. & by assuring you  
of my lasting affection - C. P. E.



own courting days when Bache used to come to my garden house for the purpose, as he said of smoking a segar and studying Chemistry,—when in fact he was only thinking about you. Confident that I was making rapid progress in the pursuit of science, I put myself to the inconvenience of letting him monopolize the doorway and with it all the light of the room.

But no more of the dreams and shadows of the past? You will wish, no doubt, that I shall, at the conclusion of this very indefinite letter give some account of my little son. At all events I feel disposed to anticipate the desire and only hope that I may be able to fortify myself against a father's weakness and partiality.

First then I have concluded upon christening him Thomas Addis Emmet, after our beloved Father, but he is to be called simply Addis Emmet.

Altho' a delicate and small child when born, he has since rapidly improved and is now very large plump and heavy. His looks too have agreeably disappointed his mother, for he is at present a very good looking Boy,—indeed he may be said to be strikingly so, for every body notices it. My opinion is however that his beauty will not continue to manhood at all events, for he possesses one of the widest and most expanded foreheads that I have ever seen upon an infant.

Tom's Johnny has a noble front, but of so different a character that it is not possible to compare them. Were I at this premature period to apply the rules of Phrenology I would say that Tom's Boy will excel in Mathematics and Sciences, founded upon close reasoning, while my chap will become eminent in music, wit and poetry. For God's sake, dear Jane, let nobody see this crude speculation for no one thinks less of bumps, and at this period of life, than I do. But as the youngsters do actually differ,—in these particulars, from most other children, there actually seems to be something of the kind to begin upon. Young Master Addis now knows his Mother and myself and actually did so before he was two months old. But while I thus give you the sweets of his character I must also be so candid as to add the Bitters. He is the most troublesome and restless dog living. For whole hours will he lie upon his back fidgeting about and moving his quick and restless eyes from one object in the room to another. Indeed he sleeps so very little that he compels his Mother and Father to keep him company during the greater part of every night. Some times it proceeds from colic, but more frequently depends upon an unknown cause which makes his little eyes bright when mine are dim with sleep. He is very frequently laughing both when asleep and awake, which convinces me that his wakefulness is not always attended with pain. When I consider how very sound a sleeper I once was, I am filled with astonishment that I am able to live upon the scanty allowance taken at present. Great as our love for this little fellow will seem, I firmly believe that he is more beloved by his grand-mother Mrs. Tucker who is constantly devouring him with kisses and staggering his young comprehension with "small talk." How gratified Mary would be could she see her son in his grandmother's arms at New York and caressed by his numerous uncles and aunts. She has wished it a hundred times. But the time has not yet come, and perhaps never will for many years be fully realized unless my friends will condescend to take a trip to Virginia and pay me a visit,—I shall still cling to the hope. We are all doing tolerably well at present, but I must conclude by presenting the warmest love of Mary and her Mother to our Family in New York, and by assuring you of my lasting affection.

Mrs. Bache McEvers, New York.

J. P. EMMET.

Evidently the anxious care of the watchful wife soon detected that her husband was having his rest thus disturbed by his son's wakefulness, and consequently she persuaded him to visit his family in New York, as is shown in the following letter written by his sister, Mrs. McEvers, to Mrs. Le Roy:

SUNDAY, August 31st, 1828.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH:

As "age is honorable" and I have to get out of debt to you all, I have preferred you to Mary Ann this week, and I shall begin according to custom with a scolding, not that I am the least offended, but only I think it well to get the start of Mary Ann and Margaret when I have a

chance. And as I think this may be the only time during the summer when I shall be in the agreeable situation of giving instead of getting a scolding I cannot neglect this opportunity of crowing over the girls. We have received no letter for two weeks, which has been a great disappointment to us all as we look out for Potsdam letters with the greatest anxiety. As I have no doubt you all have some good reason for your silence, I shall not launch out into any reproach on the occasion, but only beg that you will book it in my favor, as Bache says in his mercantile phrases, and deal as lightly with me when I serve you the same trick.

We were all surprised and delighted yesterday at the appearance of John walking into the room looking well and in as good spirits as possible. He took advantage of his vacation to pay us a visit of a week or fortnight. His wife persuaded him to come on as she thought the visit to home would do him good and make him go to work again with a better heart than if he took no holiday. We are all collected again, Rosina and Anna have returned and the addition of John's company makes the house very pleasant. He speaks a great deal of his little boy, who he says is a very fine child and the only Emmet in the family with large black eyes. He promises by all accounts to be handsome. I send Mama on a little sketch that John drew of him when he was asleep just before he left home. It may give her something to think of the little fellow by, as it will probably be long before she sees him and John wishes him to have a little place in her heart, as well as the rest of the grandchildren. He calls him Addis, altho' he is christened the full name. John appears so happy to be with us again that we will find it very hard to part with him.

We all continue quite well here except a few cases of fever and ague among the servants. However we are more fortunate than most people about here, as it is very unhealthy on both the North and East Rivers and also in the city. There is a great deal of bilious fever in town and even some vague reports of the fever [yellow fever] having broken out in Old Slip, but they are not confirmed. The children have been remarkably well this summer, and altho' we have had very warm weather they have shown no symptoms of summer complaint. We are in dreadful want of rain here, it is so long since we had any that all the leaves are turned and have fallen and the country looks now as bare as it generally does in November. Write to me soon and tell me everything about the children. There are no letters come from Potsdam we like so well as those that mention them. I generally try to say something of Jane to keep her in Mama's mind. She is the greatest amusement to me that can be. She imitates everything and is talking all the time. Bache calls John always professor, and Jane thinks it his name and calls him Uncle Assessor. John sends his best love to Mama and all of you, Bache also, and all the other members of the family join with me in it. Give mine to Le Roy and the rest, and believe me—

Yours most affectionately,

Mrs. Wm. H. Le Roy,  
Potsdam, N. Y.

JEANNETTE [McEVERS].

In April, 1829, a second son was born and christened John Tucker Emmet. He was a boy of good promise and was the idol of his parents, who in a few years were to experience a great sorrow in his early death. There seems to have been but little in Dr. Emmet's family for several years to disturb the monotonous tranquillity of the daily university life.

But in 1830 he met with a most serious accident from the carelessness of a negro man who was assisting him while preparing for one of his lectures. It was necessary to obtain a supply of sulphuric acid from a large demijohn, which the negro neglected to recork. While attempting to place the vessel on his head and carry it back to its proper place, the negro poured part of the contents over Dr. Emmet's shoulders, and getting a portion on his own hands, he threw the demijohn from him so as to break



MRS. JANE PATTEN EMMET.



it against the Doctor's body. Fortunately Dr. Emmet's face escaped the acid, but his body was severely burned and the accident caused him months of suffering.

In 1831 the University was visited by an itinerant portrait-painter by the name of Ford, who painted the portraits of many of the professors and of other people in the neighborhood. He evidently possessed but a single paintbrush, from the general blending of his colors, and was an artist of very moderate capacity, but it was claimed that he was very successful in catching the likeness. It was shortly after the illness just referred to when Ford painted the portrait of Dr. Emmet which has been reproduced, and faces the title page.

If the writer were to criticise this portrait of his father with the remembrance of a boy some fourteen years of age at the time of his death, the criticism would be that, while there was a strong resemblance, it did not do him justice. Dr. Emmet's eyes were very fine and were marked by the constant presence of an irresistible twinkle which was most suggestive of some coming witticism. His nose was well shaped, but his mouth when in repose was not good and was often expressive of suffering from bodily pain, but the shape of his head was faultless. He generally had but little color and his face was somewhat disfigured by the attack of smallpox from which he had suffered while a child. He was above the average height, but with a slight stoop of the shoulders, while his general appearance was that of an intellectual man with more brains at his command than possessed by the average individual.

Early in 1832 the year was noted in the family circle by an event which afforded great gratification to Dr. and Mrs. Emmet, namely, the birth of Jane, their only daughter, on the 29th of April.

At a later date in the year Dr. Emmet had the pleasure of receiving a long-promised visit from his mother, his eldest sister, Margaret, and his youngest brother, William Colville Emmet. For years after this visit a recollection was cherished of Miss Emmet's performance on the piano by a number of persons living at the University and in the neighborhood. The writer recalls as a child hearing, some years afterwards, a criticism by some negroes on her performance, which was termed "mighty peart music."

We find among the old letters one written by Miss Emmet from the University to Mrs. Le Roy, and dated October 18th, 1832:

You must not let anything I write in favor of the University make you jealous of Potsdam, for although it is a little world in itself and different in that respect by having pleasant society at hand when you wish to mix in it, yet you know I like congenial spirits at home as well as abroad. John and I get at the piano sometimes in the evening and play 'till all is blue, and I believe we

pass for music-mad by those whose taste lies in a different direction. But there are several here who understand music and are fond of it, and we play together when we meet. You must know I am a *lion* for execution, however, and every now and then I hear of some one who wants to come and hear Miss Emmet play.

In 1834 Dr. Emmet purchased a tract of land to the west of and adjoining the University grounds on the Staunton Turnpike. For some five or six years after his house was built at "Morea," as he called his place, and before his health finally broke down, his life was passed very happily. After planting the greatest variety of flowers and fruit trees, from some of which came the noted stock of apples and peaches still to be found in the neighborhood, he put up a brick building for the spinning of silk. The hedges on the place were formed of the *Morus multicaulis*, the leaves of which were to be used for feeding the silkworm. After several years he succeeded fully, through his own ingenuity, in making sewing-silk of the best quality. His different dyes and methods of coloring the silk became the common property of those who came after him, and they were in use until the discovery of the aniline products.

Just as he had demonstrated what could be done towards establishing the industry in this country, the building and its contents were destroyed by an incendiary.

The cultivation of the grape and the making of wine next occupied his attention. He imported grape plants from different parts of Europe, and employed persons who were familiar with their culture to attend to them. On the native grape he grafted the foreign stock and thus produced a hardy plant. He had at the time of his death a vineyard of some six or eight acres in good cultivation, and as early as 1836 he began to produce various wines and brandies in small quantities, but sufficient to demonstrate that as an industry it could be made profitable in Virginia.

Shortly after Dr. Emmet purchased his place he discovered on it a fine vein of kaolin. This clay he soon employed for making pottery and porcelain vessels, and though lacking all practical knowledge at the beginning, without any apparent difficulty he was able to devise the various methods necessary to accomplish his purpose. He was also able from this material to produce a hone equal to the finest quality from Turkey; he made a variety of cements which were impervious to water and were light enough to be used for covering roofs of buildings, and he employed this earth to form the body of various kinds of paint intended to withstand exposure to the weather. When first removed from the earth this material was as soft as chalk, and from it he carved a number of statuary figures, one of which is still preserved.

After building his house and getting his family settled Dr. Emmet

MOREA. THE RESIDENCE OF DR. J. P. EMMET, NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.









I am truly & cordially yours  
George Tucker

writes of his wants and prospects to the wife of his brother Tom, who was also just then getting in order a country-place near New York, called "Mount Vernon," the lodge of which was situated on the Third Avenue, about Sixty-first Street.

UNIVERSITY OF VA., Dec. 7, 1834.

MY DEAR ANNA:

I have for some time past been prevented by my duties from acknowledging how much I am indebted to you for the very handsome present lately received from you. Your peach trees are indeed highly acceptable and seem to be all of a very fine kind. Since their arrival I have been occupied in laying them, and the other trees from Shaw, out on the grounds and the whole make a very imposing appearance. Shaw's trees are fine ones as to size, and some I know are so as to quality. I particularly feel pleased with the Newtown pippins,\* which ought to bear in three years. Mary and myself entertain strong hopes that we may yet have yourself and Tom under our own roof, as a slight return for debts of kindness already incurred. At some future period I must obtain a larger supply of the Seckle Pear, which is the most worthy of cultivation in this country and of which I have as yet only two trees. Don't forget to make Tom charge me with the balance now against me for the articles purchased from Shaw. I shall take an early opportunity of squaring our accounts for this and other items, but at present, after pushing my hands down into my pockets as far as they can go, I find myself minus as to the cost of my house, which will be about twenty five hundred dollars altogether when complete. Although contrived by myself I may venture to assert that a more comfortable country house does not exist in these parts for the same cost, and I rejoice to find that it has become the means of creating in Mary a feeling of contentedness with our present situation in Virginia which she has not felt hitherto. This object was not necessary for myself, for I have been much pleased with the situation which I hold in, I firmly believe, the most liberal literary Institution of our country. Independent of our general prosperity at the University, my own prospects are highly satisfactory. For the last two sessions I have had classes of between ninety and one hundred students and have good reason to believe that before many years I shall have classes averaging one hundred. My farm is so close to the University that without omitting the discharge of any professional duties I shall be enabled to ride my silk and wine hobbies to death even, should I choose to do so. I am preparing everything for the reception of my Mother and Margaret next Spring, and shall accordingly feel much mortification should they break their promise.†

Mary requests me to ask that you will give the enclosed sample of room paper, No. 43, to Margaret with the view of procuring a piece of the same kind to be sent to us in the Spring. Mary Ann, I believe, purchased it.

Mary also wishes Margaret to get her six more stair rods, like those already sent. As our University, dear Anna, is not celebrated for either novelties or wonders, so soon as business ceases to furnish us with matter for correspondence, little else remains than the assurance of abundance of love and constant attachment. All of which I assure you is here offered by Mary and myself to you and our dear New Yorkers.

JOHN P. EMMET.

Mrs. Thos. A. Emmet,  
New York.

Mr. George Tucker prepared a memoir on the "Life and Character of Dr. Emmet," which was read by him before the Visitors, Faculty and Alumni of the University on July 4th, 1845.

\* The stock from which came the apple since termed in Virginia the "Albemarle pippin," from the name of the county.

† The promised visit was made, with the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Emmet, shortly after their marriage.

As Mr. Tucker was better fitted than anyone then living to do justice to Dr. Emmet's memory, it will be necessary to quote at some length from his sketch. In connection with Dr. Emmet's many pursuits Mr. Tucker writes:

After he removed to the land purchased, he turned his attention to horticulture, and the subject of husbandry generally. Here, too, he was constantly planning improvements, making experiments on manures, and introducing delicate fruits, new species of esculents, and, above all, rare flowers. His experiments in live hedges were various; and his pyrocanthus fence, had he lived to perfect it, promised to keep out even that portion of our live stock which has hitherto defied every form of this species of enclosure. It would be impossible for me to enumerate all that thus employed him. It ranged from the petty concerns of domestic economy to the highest efforts of practical science, from pyroligneous acid, by which the housewife was taught a shorter and better process of curing her hams, to the direct application of steam to rotary motion.

I always thought there was a great probability that he would eventually light on some discovery by which he would gain the renown due to his genius and zeal. On several occasions, when discoveries in physical science have for their ingenuity, or utility, made a noise in the world, I would remember that Dr. Emmet had long before shadowed them out as practicable. Among other instances, I heard him suggest the idea of using a vacuum in the air as a motive power, long before the atmospheric railway was invented; and prodigious effects of chemical agents in stimulating the growth of vegetables were also anticipated by him, and, indeed, partially verified by experiment.

We now reach a sad period in the life of both Dr. and Mrs. Emmet. It was, indeed, the turning-point in their hitherto unbroken happiness; for after the death of their youngest son, their first real sorrow, Dr. Emmet's health gradually began to fail from fortuitous circumstances, and from this time on he was no longer the same as of old. No one fully realized the fact at the time, nor did he for several years subsequently, but on looking back after his death it becomes very evident. Mrs. Tucker had been most devoted in the care of her little grandson, and in the following letter to Mrs. T. A. Emmet she details a full account of his illness and death:

MOREA, VIRGINIA, Oct. 26th, 1837.  
MY DEAR MRS. EMMET:

Your letter from some unknown cause did not reach me 'till yesterday, and altho' you must have heard from my dear Byrd, who wrote to Mrs. Graves, long ere this, I haste to reply to your affectionate letter, if a severe headache and toothache will not oblige me to lay aside my pen. The loss of our darling Tucker was so sudden and unexpected that I may with truth say he was snatched from us without scarcely being warned of his danger. He had been hoarse for several days, but not more or so much as I had often seen him, and was with his Tutor on Friday afternoon. Medicines were administered and he was kept in bed on Saturday, more to keep off the croup, which was what we apprehended, than from any apparent indisposition. His mother was engaged with her family and I remained with him; during the time he read many little stories to me and would frequently say "come here, grand-mother and let me snug you and kiss you." About two o'clock his breathing became laborious and a fever succeeded. Dr. Griffith,\* the new professor, was immediately sent for and remained all night. As he did not appear to be worse and I was very unwell, I went to bed and about two o'clock I was called and never while my senses are retained

\* Dr. Griffith, of Philadelphia, succeeded Dr. McGill as the Professor of the Practice of Medicine.

can I forget the sound and suffering of the dear darling child. From that time, to that of his dissolution, we were constantly bleeding, leeching, applying, mustard and blister plasters and hot baths, but all in vain. The disease never yielded in the slightest degree, on the contrary it seemed to defy the efforts of medicine or skill. To see his sufferings, and to see him bear them like a hero, never was there a murmur, a complaint, or the slightest objection to the most nauseous medicines. But with his usual sweet smiles and affectionate manner always said, "Thank you madam," or "Thank you Sir," for all that was ever done for him.

My afflicted children could not bear the distressing scene and were taken from him two hours before his death. But knowing that next to his mother he would have preferred my being with him, and heartrending as it was, I had determined to suppress every emotion and to remain with him. On my arm at half-past eleven o'clock on Sunday he breathed his last and the last words he spoke were "Dear Grandmother, come and lie down by me." Dear good child he is I trust far more happy than he ever could have been in this world of woe; and altho' I know that he was taken at a time when he was pure and spotless, still we find it hard to bow with humble submission to the will of the Allwise disposer of human events. Long, very long, will it be ere I can forget the dear lovely boy whose affectionate and warm heart combined with a natural flow of humour not only endeared him to his own family but to all who knew him. From bitter experience I know it is not in the power of the dearest friend to alleviate grief in its first anguish. Still, the gratification derived from the sympathy of dear and valued friends tends materially to soften the pains of our over-whelmed and anguished hearts under such bereavements.

This is the first *real sorrow* my beloved Byrd has ever felt and most keenly has she felt this. If I leave her for a few moments I always find her in tears and from her appearance every morning I judge she must have spent the greater part of her night in the same. My dear John is most keenly afflicted, and for eight or ten days was at times quite unmanned, but his daily avocations engage his constant time and attention, consequently tend much to lessen the weight of his sorrow. Neither of the parents will admit that Tucker was their favorite child, but there is no denying what was too apparent to every eye. Such uniform fondness and devotion for a child to a mother I have never before seen exhibited, but in one instance and that was in my own darling Saint George. None but those who have lost such a child can tell the pangs of a mother's heart. But while we lament the loss of those who are so dear to us in life, we must not be unmindful of the many very many blessings we have left, and that these trials are intended either as a wholesome discipline of the heart, or to prevent an undue attachment of things of this world. Under this impression I have been consoled in the many severe afflictions I have experienced and think whatever is, is best.

We are grieved to hear of Annie's [the daughter] indisposition, but as the pain in her breast is not attended with fever or cough I trust the skill of your Father \* and the kind attention of her friends will soon restore her to her wonted health. Many of the Virginia Springs have high reputation for curing Dyspepsia, and should it be decided that Annie's complaint is that and she should not be restored before the Summer, I think you had better try their efficacy. I need not add how happy it would make us all to have you spend some time here. Present me, if you please, in the most tender and affectionate manner, to Mrs. Emmet, I have thought much of her, also to your better half, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Emmet, Mr. and Mrs. McEvers, Mr. and Mrs. Graves, to Margaret and to Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy. Tho' I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy I feel as if I knew them very well and they being allied to my dear John is quite sufficient to make me feel a deep interest in them, for he is quite as dear to me as any child I have. And I assure you that I have no greater happiness than to meet and gladden his heart to the extent of my ability.

Our dear Addis and Jane are both well and desire to be affectionately remembered to their dear Grandmother, Uncles, Aunts and Cousins. Addis is much afflicted at the loss of his brother, they were scarcely ever separated, indeed they were so linked, as it were, that scarcely one was ever called without the other, and it seems quite an effort for either of us to do it even now. It is at meals and at our fireside that we miss the darling child the most. It was our constant custom after sundown to assemble together and the dear children to hang around their father, each trying to get

\* Dr. Macneven was Mrs. Emmet's stepfather.

the best place to comb his hair and to hear the stories which he regaled them with, and they in turn each did the same. This has afforded me no small amusement to see their lively imaginations put to the test, and their natural disposition develop itself; but alas, the link is broken and time alone can reconcile us to the void which has been made in our happy domestic circle.

I was obliged to leave my letter unfinished, having the toothache so violently, I scarcely knew, my dear Mrs. Emmet, what I had written; my nerves in addition have been so much unstrung that I could scarcely guide my pen. Remember me to Mr. and Mrs. William Emmet and my respects to your father and mother, if you please. Kiss the dear children for me if they have any recollection of such a person. My dear Byrd and John desire to be affectionately remembered to every member of the family. The latter has said again and again that he would write to your good man, but his heart fails him and he dreads the subject. Will you be so good as to remember me affectionately to the "Bond Street Tuckers" \* when you see them. Accept the sincere affection of your much attached friend—

ELIZA J. TUCKER.

Mrs. T. A. Emmet,  
Mount Vernon, New York.

Mrs. Le Roy writes a letter of condolence to her brother. He in answer expresses his deep sympathy for her on the sudden loss of a young child, and in doing so gives vent to his own grief in most expressive terms:

UNIVERSITY OF VA., Nov. 17th, 1837.

MY DEAREST ELIZABETH:

Your kind and sisterly affection led you lately to attempt the trying duty of healing a brother's deep affliction, kind and considerate it was and deeply did it leave its impression. Although we have not heard from our friends I have learned, through the papers, of your very recent bereavement. Could I tell you how much aggrieved Mary and I were at the intelligence, situated as I was myself and just about to answer your kind letter, it would only, perhaps, augment the sorrow and affliction which you are now called on to endure. A few such scenes make a deep, abiding impression upon the mind; but they are not without their benefits.

I cannot convince myself nor attempt to reason you into the belief that such losses are intended for our good, *especially*, but, my dear Sister, we can draw lessons of wisdom from the trial. I doted upon my beloved boy for he was ambitious to emulate me in every respect. Proud of his father, he was forever speaking of the future; and I allowed my feelings to run away with my judgement. When the trial came I was not prepared, and ere I could think of the change he was gone. Mine was severe because it was the first; but, although no repetition can diminish the anguish of a mother upon such occasions, you have been tried before and from the event have drawn too many sobering reflections to stand in need of any moral suggestions. Sad necessity teaches us that such events must be, that we stand, as it were, upon the battle-field with the fatal weapons of Death around us, invisible and for ever threatening. Then who is safe! We must

\* Mr. Richard Jennings Tucker, then a prominent merchant and banker, was Mrs. Tucker's uncle. It is held by tradition that Mr. Tucker built the first house in Bond Street, No. 9, on the lower side of the street, in 1826. The writer can recall distinctly a visit to this house when he was a small child, and it then seemed to be in the country. After attending service with his grandmother, Mrs. Tucker, in St. John's Church, he accompanied her, with his nurse, to take an early Sunday dinner with the "Bond Street Tuckers." Mrs. Tucker must have been persuaded to remain longer, for we did not return home until after sunset and it was bright moonlight. We were staying with Judge Robert Emmet or some other member of the family, who lived on the south side of St. John's Park, now covered by the freight depot of the Hudson River Railroad. To take a short cut we crossed Broadway, which seemed then to be a dusty country road, and over a stone wall by a stile into a cornfield on the west side. The writer recollects that he was very tired and sleepy and that his nurse refused to carry him, but dragged him along by the arm between the rows of corn, and the circumstance is impressed upon his mind, as a very small child, in consequence of the annoyance he suffered from the continued flapping in his face of the blades of corn, which were very wet from the heavy dew then falling.



MRS. ELIZA J. TUCKER.



learn patiently to abide the event and turn the mind from vainly brooding over losses which we cannot restore. Seek then, my dear Sister, in your family and in your husband's heart the consolation which begets peace and you will find it. May you realize these my best wishes.

Yours most affectionately,

Mrs. W. H. Le Roy, New York.

J. P. EMMET.

For ten years after 1830 Dr. Emmet was a frequent contributor, on various scientific subjects, to *Silliman's Journal*; he also wrote often for the *Virginia Literary Museum*, at one time published at the University of Virginia and edited by the professors. His contributions were always gratuitous and most frequently anonymous. Dr. Emmet possessed so modest an appreciation of his own talents that his efforts to conceal or turn aside all credit for his work amounted almost to a weakness in his character.

His last scientific investigation was pursued to a greater length and in a more exhaustive manner than was usual with him. Mr. Tucker writes: "A year or more before his death, Dr. Emmet having casually noticed the coloured edge of a shadow on a piece of white paper, was led to speculate on the phenomenon; and his mind having thus started, soon became directed to the whole theory of light and colours. He plunged into the subject with his wonted ardour, and exhibited more than his accustomed copiousness of invention by the variety of his experiments. The result was that he refused his assent to the Newtonian Theory of refraction; and being in pursuit of nothing but the truth, he wrote a paper in which, with his characteristic candour, he stated the grounds of his opinion at full length, accompanied with diagrams and coloured drawings of his experiment."

At Mr. Tucker's suggestion the manuscript was submitted to the criticism of Professor Bonnycastle. Mr. Tucker states that the critic "gave the praise of novelty and ingenuity to many of Dr. Emmet's experiments; and thought he would obtain great credit if he would be content to publish them simply as experiments exhibiting phenomena of light not hitherto known, without attempting to assail the Newtonian Theory, which he supposed required a more thorough knowledge of the higher mathematics than Dr. Emmet relied on, or had indeed claimed to possess."

Mr. Tucker visited London in 1841 and submitted the manuscript to a noted publisher of scientific works. But it was declined and returned unread, on the ground that it was an absurdity to attempt to controvert any of Newton's views. The paper has been preserved, but has never been published or the experiments verified.

During the summer of 1841 Dr. Emmet and his wife visited New York to see their relatives and to select a good school for their son. St.

Thomas's Hall, Flushing, Long Island, then under the charge of the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, was finally decided upon. So, on their return to Virginia they left the writer in charge of his Uncle Bache McEvers, and shortly after Dr. Emmet reached home he received the following letter from Mr. McEvers:

MONTE ALTO,\* NEW YORK, 20 Sept., 1841.

MY DEAR JOHN:

Your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> enclosing check for three hundred dollars was received by me at home this evening and I wrote at once to acknowledge its receipt and presume your view of the account is correct, tho' as I have not access to my books I cannot say exactly. The am't, say three hundred dollars, will be put to your credit and when I write again I will state exactly how the matter stands between us. I gave your note to Robert on his return to town, but he has not paid the amount, and as I can advance the first payment to Mr. Hawks without inconvenience I shall not press it upon him. Next week I shall take Addis to Flushing and Robert has decided to send Bill and John there also, so that he will have intimates at once and find himself quite at home. He has behaved himself very well since he has been with us and has written once to his mother and once to you; the letter giving you an account of a pretty severe attack of Cholera Morbus, which he went through safely tho' I confess the symptoms were for a few moments rather alarming from the violence of the cramps. He has been entirely well since and as Robert's boys have been with us nearly all the while, he has been as merry as a cricket. I give you all these details for Mary's sake and want you to assure her that while he is under Jane's care, he will be quite as much at home as if at the University. Your letter found me as I stated at home and I have had for the last week as severe a bilious attack as I ever suffered under and today missed the fever for the first time, and hope I may not be troubled any more with it. I shall not go to town for a day or two, and if you were here the captivity would be much brightened. The fishing is glorious, but I cannot join it. Robert, Le Roy, and Tom yesterday caught one hundred and thirty-five bass at the Rock. Give my best love to Mary, and believe me, my dear John, ever truly yours—

BACHE MCEVERS.

Dr. Emmet, University of Va.

I shall have your message to Edward Wilson & Dick duly delivered.

\* Monte Alto was Mr. McEvers's country-place of some twenty-five acres, situated on the Hudson River, just below Manhattanville, on the Bloomingdale Road. It is now a part of the Riverside Park. Gen. Grant's tomb occupies a portion of the ground where a large swing and gymnasium put up by Mr. McEvers had stood, a little to the northwest of the site of the dwelling house. The fishing rock referred to by Mr. McEvers was a noted spot for bass fishing, situated about half a mile nearer the city, on Mr. Schmidt's place; it was finally covered by the Hudson River Railroad. The bluff on the river-bank was then heavily timbered with forest trees, among which were extended walks, with rustic seats placed to command, at different points, a view of the river. These walks passed on to Mr. Schmidt's grounds, crossing the intervening places then occupied by a Mr. Claiborne, an Irish merchant, and next to him was Mr. Samuel Whitlock, also a merchant and the owner of the then noted French line of packet-ships. A close intimacy had existed between the families for many years, and Mr. Whitlock's son, of the same name, afterwards married the eldest daughter of Mr. McEvers. Mrs. Schmidt, as has been stated, was Eliza Bache, a half-sister of Mr. Bache McEvers, and her husband was for many years the Consul-General in this country from Prussia.

The writer some time ago accidentally learned the history of this place from reading an old letter written nearly a hundred years ago by a Mr. George Pollock, an Irishman from Belfast and a merchant. The statement was there made that he had cleared this place for his residence from the primitive forest shortly after the Revolution, and in consequence of the death of his wife and the subsequent loss of his only child by drowning he was about to return permanently to England. This child was drowned in the North River and was buried on the bank within a short distance of Gen. Grant's tomb, where the writer, as a child, frequently spelled out the inscription on its monument with feelings of profound sympathy for the fate of the little stranger whose history was then unknown to him.

Gulian Verplanck, of Verplanck's Point, North River, and whose city residence was at that time in Wall Street, on the site of the present United States Assay Office, purchased this estate from Mr. Pollock, and it then included the portion which has since been known as "Clarendon," on which was subsequently built the present standing building as a country residence for one of the Post family. Mr. McEvers leased the place from his cousin, the literary savant, Gulian C. Verplanck, a son of the purchaser.

The writer recalls this portion of his life with an interest not free from feelings of sadness. On going to school he soon became a sufferer from fever and ague, which for the time impaired both his health and judgment. This led to a series of letters between his father and himself, which brought them in a closer relation than would otherwise have existed. His father's admonitions, coming as they did almost from the brink of the grave, were productive of better results than he himself could have anticipated. The recollection of his father's love and entire confidence was a constant incentive in after life to accomplish whatever would have met with his approval. The last letter written by his father to him, on December 13th, 1841, was certainly well calculated to bring about good results in any boy as soon as he could think and appreciate what his father expected of him.

UNIVERSITY OF VA., Sept. 20th, 1841.

MY DEAR ADDIS:

Your last letter had distressed us greatly in consequence of the accounts which you give of your very serious attack of sickness. Yet I know that, with your uncle and aunt, you are as well provided for in all cases as you would be under my own roof. As, however, you will be necessarily separated from them while at school, you must at once acquire the habit of taking care of yourself. I cannot of course say in what manner your late attack was brought on; but from knowledge of your peculiar disposition, your mother and myself have inclined to suppose that you have not been particular enough in your clothing or eating. This has been a cold and sickly season almost everywhere. You should, therefore, be warmly clad and not complain of clothing in the middle of the day which may be the means of saving your life during the morning and night. Your attack may also have been brought on by imprudent eating, such as eating unripe apples, &c. I do not write, however, to lecture you and shall, therefore, merely beg earnestly, that you will, henceforth, begin to be thoughtful about yourself. Remember, always, that the less trouble you give other persons in looking after you, the more they will love you. You need not expect to find such friends as your uncles and aunts when you are at school, and the necessity of providing for yourself will then be forced upon you. I trust that you have by this time fully recovered and that you feel stout and resolute about your studies. Believe me that I shall look to your future letter-writing with the greatest interest and shall remark with a father's pleasure every new token of improvement. We have a great deal to learn and were we to comprehend, at the commencement, the full extent of the task we should no doubt weary often and become frightened or dispirited, but then we also have a great deal of time for studying. You need not overtask yourself, when at school, or strain to do a great deal in a very short time. This is not the way to acquire patience or resolution. Go along steadily, never be absolutely idle and when you begin to study turn all your attention to the task.

I will say this for you, my dear son, that I have always felt good reason to rely upon you and I am very sure that you will not now disappoint me when you understand my wishes.

You requested me to enquire how your pets are going on. Judging from the Cat's placid exterior, while reposing upon the kitchen roof in the strong sunshine, I should say that she was well to do in this world and not liable to any heartrending emotions. Your dog has quit the premises, either as a defaulter or vagrant and I can give no further account of him than that he fancies Joe Woodley before any other person since you have withdrawn your protection. His place at Morea is more than filled up by other pets. John's\* dog is his immediate successor; but besides we have lots of flowers, three canaries and a charming young mocking bird, who is already so extremely quick with his tongue and voice that I should not be at all surprised if he should talk Greek

\* John Tom, the eldest son of Mr. T. A. Emmet and a student in the University.

yet before you do. As your mother has a postscript to add I must *shut up* for the present, but if you only do well at school and improve you shall have many pleasant letters from me.

My love to your uncle and aunt and to all the family of the great *ant-hill*.

God bless you.

JOHN P. EMMET.

The following is the postscript of Mrs. Emmet :

**MY BELOVED ADDIS:**

I cannot forbear putting a few lines in your father's letter to let you know how much uneasiness I felt at reading your letter tonight. I have thought a good deal of you this cool weather and often said I hoped you would make the change in your clothing by putting on your drawers. If you have not found the pair you left at your uncle Graves' ask your aunt Jane please to have you a pair made. I will bring you on in the vacation, if I live, drawers and night shirts also. Be prudent, my dear Addis, and remember the anxiety I must necessarily feel at being separated from you. Although you are now surrounded and will be near kind and affectionate friends who will be always pleased, I know, to do everything for you, yet when you leave them for your school, you will have to think for yourself. To your uncle and aunt, whom you are with, you can never be too grateful. We have all experienced their very kind attention in many similar instances of sickness and particularly in the case of your dear sister when she broke her leg. The kindness of all at that time I often think of with overflowing gratitude.

Let me beg of you, my dear Boy, not to let a fortnight pass without writing. If you think of your mother's anxiety, I know you will not. If your aunt thinks you have not winter socks enough ask her to get you more and everything else she thinks you will require. Your uncle Henry\* and aunt Mary were very much disappointed at not seeing you. They will leave us on Monday next; their stay will be only three weeks in consequence of its being so cold already, and they are afraid to keep Julia out longer as she is so delicate. She and Emmet are dear little children. Your grandmother and sister are well and will write soon. John received a letter from his mother and she did not mention you, I dare say you were sick at that time, I can not help thinking so. I wrote to her yesterday to get me more seeds and box-edging,—so you must get me the rare roots and some carnations to send also, and some of the white Phlox from your Uncle Bache's, and that white wild-flower which your aunt Jane has. My love to Jane Le Roy and tell her when she has anything interesting she must write the first letter. Mention Temple† when you write. I hope he has not forgotten me. I think of you both several times a day and particularly at meals. Good night my beloved Boy, think often of your devoted mother.

M. B. EMMET.

Dr. Emmet again writes to his son :

UNIVERSITY OF VA., Oct. 22, 1841.

**MY DEAR ADDIS:**

We have just received your last letter, to your Grandmother, and are greatly pleased to learn from yourself that you have recovered from your indisposition. Fever and ague are troublesome acquaintances and will be sure to call again and again, unless you drive them off by force. When, therefore, you feel at all as if you were about to have another attack, return to your medicine and seven or eight grains of quinine, taken at once, will in your case, I doubt not, effect a complete cure. Lest you should think that I am satisfied with preaching, I will inform you that, at very nearly the same time as yourself, I was confined to my chamber with the same disease, fever and ague. This indeed occasioned the delay in answering your letter to me. I had, however, a return of the ague every day, but I broke it in a short time by taking fifteen grains of quinine at a dose. You have heard, that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of time," and a great deal of nasty medicines would have to be swallowed if we were to take no pains to prevent the recurrence of sickness. Let your clothing, therefore, be warm, and if you want anything to make yourself comfortable, in this respect, write at once to your Aunt Jane and she will send it to you before the

\* Mr. Henry Tucker was a brother of Mrs. Emmet.

† A son of Judge Robert Emmet, and who had been a student at the University.

winter sets in. Don't be out late at night,—I suppose that I need not be so particular in cautioning you not to rise too early in the morning. What I wish to say is that although you may be out of your bed as early as you please, you should not expose yourself too early to the open air. Most of these remarks I make at your mother's suggestion, and I know how much pleasure it will give you to lessen her anxiety about you.

And now, my dear Boy, there is another topic to be noticed, more especially since it has been urged with much vehemence by yourself in your letters. You want me to promise that you shall stay at home next year. I know that you are *homesick*, and that it will be many years before you can become fully conscious that this is merely a *schoolboy's disease*, which when once cured, seldom, if ever, returns.

I remember when I had it! While it lasted, which was for a week or so, I could not take pleasure in anything, but was constantly dreaming over my lessons or moping by myself in profound solitude. I could not then perceive how merrily my school fellows played with each other, and what a number of fine fellows there was among them. But it was not long before I made the discovery, and as soon as I did away went the home sickness; so will it be with you, rest assured. Perhaps you are already cured.

I have been disposed to attribute your pressing request to go home after a year to this melancholy feeling which has beset you, and with the view of placing your proposition on its right footing, I will ask you whether you have not often noticed a piece of beef that has been roasted in a hurry and before too strong a fire. It may be done tolerably well on the *outside*, but it is absolutely *raw within*.

Could you relish such meat and praise the cook? Certainly not. One year's schooling will but make you like this roast beef, and were you then to return to me, I should be extremely mortified at not being able to find anything to praise, and still more so if I found that *you* were satisfied with your condition. As your father, I educate you not so much because your attainments may be a source of pride and gratification to myself; but because I know the value of such knowledge to *yourself*.

You are now too young to know that a highly cultivated mind is more valuable than anything in the nature of wealth. But you have a good understanding, good habits, good disposition, and, moreover, the *full confidence* of your father and mother. So that I feel satisfied that when you have completed one year at your school, you will never rest contented with so humble and low-minded a termination of your studies as you now contemplate.

Your idea seems to be that by great labor you will be able to do in one year what usually requires three years. Remember in doing so your improvement will be superficial—roast beef only done on the outside. Take things more quietly, and I will ensure your success. Do not, for the present, aim at doing more than to learn thoroughly the lessons given from day to day by your teachers, and to become obedient to all the regulations of your school.

MY DEAR ADDIS:

Notwithstanding the excellence of your Father's advice he is now again on his back with the ague, and in consequence thereof has not been able to finish his own letter. His relapse was occasioned by lecturing in a damp room. He requests me to state how much pleased he would be to learn something from yourself about your studies. He also requests that Dr. Hawks will forward a monthly report to him. As you feel so much attached to your cat, I cannot conclude this letter without informing you that she has been elevated to the responsible post of Governor General over all the stock of winter vegetables in the Garret, and her rebellious subjects are the rats and mice. She has refrained, with the strictest honor, from removing any of the vegetable deposits, but she mews a great deal at night and I fear she is troubled with your complaint of *home sickness*. Please to remember your father and myself to Dr. Hawks. I remain as ever—

YOUR DEVOTED MOTHER.

Master Thos. Addis Emmet,  
Care of the Revd. Francis L. Hawks,  
Flushing, L. I.

The following letter was the last one the writer ever received from his father, who when writing it could have little realized that the seed he was then planting would bear good fruit and that his admonitions would exercise such a very salutary influence on his son's after life. During his boyhood, in youth and even in manhood the writer has many times reread and studied the contents of this letter to appreciate its full bearing, and deep have been the regrets on the part of the son that he should ever have caused his father an anxious moment.

UNIVERSITY OF VA., December 13th, 1841.

DEAR ADDIS:

Last Friday evening we received your last letter, written to myself, and were very sorry to learn that you have had another attack of fever and ague. I presume that you exposed yourself too much when you went skating. By remaining too long in the cold, or by getting your feet wet, you will always incur the risk of an immediate attack. I trust that the disease has been removed by this time and you may prevent its recurrence by continuing to take the quinine for a week or two. Your letter has caused me uneasiness from another cause. We had begun to think that your good sense had made you become reconciled to your school. The letter from you, which produced this impression on us, pleasant and gratifying I can assure you, was written cheerfully and in it you declare you wish to remain at Mr. Hawks' school for two years, and you believe that there is not a better place for study in the country. But in your last letter, to which this is an answer, you wish to take back your words by telling me that when you wrote the former letter you were under the influence of sickness and did not know what you did. Now Addis, I am much older than you are and will tell you candidly my opinion. I do not think that you wish to deceive me, but most certainly, you have allowed your own good sense and judgement to be changed by the opinion of some of your school fellows who are either somewhat idle or do not like to submit to the rules and discipline of the school. It is not usual for people to write so cheerfully and contented a letter as your first one while under the influence of sickness and without being conscious of what was done. Your last letter shows much more of the feeling you allude to; for you show the depression of feelings brought on by your sickness, but you also show the *discontent* which is always so distinguishable when one's judgement and good sense have been tampered with. Now, my dear Addis, go back to your original feeling and learn again to become *contented* with your situation. Whenever any person tells you that the school is a humbug tell him that your father considers it quite good enough for you, and that you would stay there five years if this were necessary to please him. Never be rude, dogged, or self sufficient, but do, my dear Boy, at once endeavour to acquire independence of character and firmness of purpose in all matters recommended by those who are not only older than yourself but who value your own welfare more than they do their own. I do not send you to school to kill time and waste my slender income. Idlers and loungers dislike to be confined and restrained, but good boys soon learn to know that the habit of study, which leads to knowledge and distinction, can only become well established by discipline. If I were to take you away, which could only be done at a great sacrifice, you could not return home because there is no school here which I approve. Make up your mind, therefore, to be separated from us for some time yet, and endeavour to shorten that time, as much as possible, by attention to your studies.

Think yourself fortunate, moreover, that your father is alive, willing and able to confer upon you all the blessings of education. If all this does not give you resolution and a feeling of noble ambition, think of the fact that hereafter your *mother* and sister may have to look to you alone as their only support upon earth! My health is slowly giving way and, even while now writing to you, I am afflicted with a disease which is yearly killing thousands in this country! And what

would be your situation if now, or some few years hence, I were to be removed? Are you prepared to support your mother and sister? Or will you ever be able to do so if you waste the present time in idle complaints, or vain regrets? Turn, my dear Boy, *at once* a deaf ear to all those whose counsel or opinion tends to make you discontented, and determine to judge for *yourself* at the end of the season. Let me tell you that your school is well known to one or more of our students here, and one of them lately informed your mother, that he had been a scholar under Dr. Hawks. He concluded by saying that although the school was a very strict one it was also excellent and that any boy might consider himself very fortunate who had the benefit of its instruction. I must confess, my dear Addis, I have been so impressed by the belief that some one of your young friends has caused this change in your feelings that I have devoted the largest portion of my letter to the expression of my regret and disappointment. There is, however, but little news to add. We are well at present, with the exception of myself, and my health has greatly improved within the past week.

Your grandmother requests me to mention to you that she sent some time since a letter to you in the care of Mr. Sylvester, who said that he would see you and deliver it. As you did not allude to this letter your grandmother is uncertain whether it has yet reached you.

Your sister Jane is doing very well, and what is perhaps necessary for success at school, she is contented. I hope that your next letter will inform us of your entire recovery from sickness and that you will feel again disposed to declare your manly resolution in relation to your studies.

Your devoted Father and best adviser,  
J. P. EMMET.

Master Thos. Addis Emmet,  
Care Rev. F. Hawks,  
Flushing, L. I.

Dr. Emmet's health, already seriously impaired, had become so much worse that in January, 1842, he was obliged to visit Florida, while his course of lectures was completed by one of his colleagues, Prof. Wm. B. Rogers. He received every kindness from his friends about the University, and particularly from the students, by whom he was greatly respected and beloved. He received a number of letters from his students, individually expressing their sympathy for his illness and their appreciation of the loss they would sustain in their studies by his absence.

The following letter was received from the members of his class through a committee appointed to express their deep regret at his contemplated departure:

UNIVERSITY OF VA., Jan. 20th, 1842.

DEAR SIR:

At a meeting of the Classes of Chemistry and Materia Medica, at which Mr. P. B. Stark presided, held this evening at half past four o'clock, we were appointed a committee on their behalf to express their deep regret at your contemplated departure.

While we are fully aware of the loss which your pupils will sustain by the absence of a Professor whose faithfulness and ability we have all experienced, we are yet convinced that your course is in every way the most proper and heartily concur in all measures which you may think suitable for the restoration of your health.

The personal attachment which we all feel would exclude the selfish desire to retain your services, even though your chair should be vacated. We hope, however, to prosecute our studies, if not with the same alacrity as under yourself, at least with success.

Our best wishes go with you for your speedy restoration to health, and to the enjoyment and duties of life.

With the highest respect,

POWHATAN B. STARK,  
L. F. BULLITT,  
J. R. TUCKER,  
T. B. HOLCOMBE.

To Dr. John Patten Emmet,  
Present.

Dr. Emmet's health rapidly improved in the milder climate, so much so that he decided to purchase a place on the St. John's River opposite Palatka. There was some difficulty and delay in obtaining money on some property in New York, and in consequence he writes the following letter to his brother Tom. This letter is believed to be the last letter written by him.

ST. AUGUSTINE, April 24th, 1842.

DEAR TOM:

I can not disguise from you that your last letter, received yesterday, depressed me a great deal. My arrangements for the purchase had gone so far that all parties looked upon it as settled. I know that you made as great exertion in my behalf as you would have done for yourself, and I do not mention my disappointment, therefore, as referring in the slightest degree to yourself. We must, however, continue our exertions, so that I may be prepared for some other opportunity. The place which I proposed to purchase was a very beautiful and desirable one. It had a house upon it which, with some repairs, would have enabled me to remove my family and settle there comfortably at once. Upon it, also, is a grove of Orange trees in full bearing, which, in two years, would have provided means to visit the North, during the Summer, and to pay for clothing and groceries.

The proprietor will take nothing but cash, because he wishes to purchase and settle upon land, at the government price, in an unsettled but more fertile portion of the Territory.

There are, however, other beautiful, though unimproved, locations on the St. John's river, one of which I hope will yet belong to me. This subject leads me to notice my reasons for seeking a permanent residence in Florida, or at least the acquisition of property there, as soon as possible. The war with the Seminole Indians has hitherto driven away the early settlers, most of whom have thus become absentees and have entered into other engagements for their support. The difficulty of making cash payments has also brought down the value of such property as is included within the Spanish Grants along the river St. John's. Land is now, consequently, as cheap as it is likely to be. But a reaction is already taking place. The war is certainly about to close, and has been so proclaimed by the officer in command of our troops—Col. Worth. The people have acquired the same conviction, and settlers are not only returning to their old homes, but persons from the adjoining states, and many even from the State of New York, are making purchases daily. These circumstances have convinced me that now is the proper time to acquire the right of property, even though I shall not take possession immediately. By doing so and immediately planting out an Orange Grove of a thousand trees, I shall increase the value of the land at least tenfold, and in such a manner that no casualty can permanently destroy the improvement.

As it will require five or six years to render the young trees capable of bearing fruit abundantly, it is obvious that the improvement to be of service to *myself* should be commenced at once. But, perhaps, the most cogent reason for purchasing speedily arises from my own position and circum-

stances. Where else, in the United States, can I live if my present profession is destructive to my health and my connection with the University must be broken off either this year or the next? If my Virginia farm could support my family, which it has never done, I should have to fly from it every winter, either alone or with my family, to expend much more in traveling and boarding elsewhere. I should have to leave behind my horses, my negroes, &c., to provide for their maintenance, and in all other respects to feel the heavy expenses of two homes. I am fully of opinion, therefore, that it is my interest *now* to provide for the contingency which must arise very speedily, if it does not already exist.

I have already entered upon the last third of the "three score years and ten," not with the diseases of my youth softened or removed, but with such an increase of them as to prove that they have assumed a chronic form for the future. It is my interest, as much as my inclination, to seek relaxation from intellectual pursuits, the most depressing of all others, and I have some reasons to believe that I have but a few years left to make the experiment.

You, and all the other members of our happy family circle, must have observed my debility and almost constant depression when among you, for the last five or six years, and although nothing but death can remove my affection for you all, no effort on my part has been sufficient to diminish the frequency of these attacks of the enemy which deprive me of my natural cheerfulness.

In the mild climate of Florida I hope, still, to recover much of what has been lost, but whether this, my last chance, is to benefit *myself* or not I still feel convinced that the acquisition of property here will contribute more to the independence of my family than any other, either in New York or Virginia, can do. Neither can I regard it as selfish that I should now seek to dispose of some of the New York property with a view of improving my own health, even though the change must be made at a considerable sacrifice.

You will perceive, however, that I do not make the change without the fairest prospect of acquiring competency. Before the war, the St. John's river was thronged by coasting vessels from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, and other seaport towns, visiting the Orange Groves and paying cash for the crops, on the ground and without the risk of transportation. The oranges never, when most abundant, sold for less than seventy-five cents a hundred and a dollar was the usual price. A good tree bears from five hundred to a thousand oranges, so that taking seventy-five cents as the price of a hundred, a good tree will yield a profit of between seven and ten dollars. Though frost is seldom felt here it does, about every ten years, destroy the crops. Making allowance for this contingency to the utmost, the average annual profit, under the worst circumstances, of an Orange tree cannot fall below one or two dollars and a grove, therefore, of one thousand trees may be relied upon as giving a cash income of one thousand or fifteen hundred dollars, without labor or requiring the presence of the owner until October, when the sales are made. The Florida oranges are greatly preferred to those from Cuba, as sweeter and of a higher flavor. But suppose there is a perfect failure for one crop, then, where is the place except in Florida where cattle multiply with a profit of thirty per cent. on the spot and for cash, where they find abundance to eat during the severest winter, giving no trouble whatever except to mark them once a year and milk them. In short every living thing, whether hog, horse or poultry, provides for itself throughout the year, furnishing to the farmer every luxury which substantial living can require. The almost total absence of frost gives the crops great luxuriance. We have green peas at Christmas, the richest sweet potatoes two crops a year, Corn two crops, tobacco two crops, besides an abundance of garden vegetables, fruit, butter, milk, strawberries, &c., which makes it utterly impossible to starve unless the cultivator is a fool, or madman. One acre of rich land properly attended to and bearing the Cuba tobacco is estimated as yielding a thousand dollars when the leaf is cured and made into segars. The Florida sugar is considered to be superior to, and the crops more certain, than that of Louisiana, because the season of growing is longer and warmer, while the winter seldom injures the cane. The woods are literally thronged with wild flowers of the greatest variety and beauty. The pine forests abound with wild turkeys and deer, while an almost infinite variety of fish are to be found in the rivers. Almost every person who visits Florida feels its potent charms and longs to return. The land seems to stick, like honey, to the fingers and

produces a strong desire to enjoy it. You can well fancy, therefore, how all these advantages tempt a man who, like myself, first visits it as an invalid and then acquires the conviction that a permanent residence is necessary for his existence. Think of this, my dear Tom, and do not lax your efforts to enable me to succeed. I am slowly improving and Mary is very well.

Yours truly,

J. P. EMMET.

Thos. Addis Emmet, Esqr., New York.

P. S. We shall leave this place for Charleston in about a fortnight, and shall, as soon after as possible, take a vessel for New York, as I am desirous of trying the effects of a sea voyage. You need not, therefore, reply to this letter and may retain any letters for me directed to New York. Before I arrive, you will, probably, become acquainted with Dr. Byrne, who carries, from me, a letter of introduction to Bache, whose residence in town will enable the Doctor to deliver it more conveniently. But I want you to become acquainted with him and to show him attention, as he has laid me under deep obligation by his unremitting attentions to me, from the moment of my arrival at St. Augustine.

Dr. and Mrs. Emmet returned to Charleston a few days after this letter was written, and there enjoyed for some time the hospitality of Mr. Daniel Ravenell, whose first wife was a half-sister of Mr. Bache McEvers. Mrs. Emmet's letters state that her husband gained more strength in Charleston than he had done in Florida, and greatly enjoyed the renewal of his acquaintance with the many old friends he had made twenty-five years before when practicing medicine there. In May he engaged passage for himself and wife on a sailing vessel then plying as a packet between Charleston and New York. By accident they were detained a few moments at the hour for sailing, and consequently reached the wharf just as the vessel was getting under way. The captain was surly and refused to delay a few moments until they could be put aboard by a rowboat. This proved a fortunate circumstance, as the vessel was never heard of after leaving the harbor, and all on board were lost.

Dr. Emmet and his wife, however, immediately boarded another vessel just sailing for New York. In a hurricane off Cape Hatteras the vessel was dismantled, the greater portion of her fresh water and provisions being washed overboard. The wreck drifted for some thirty-eight days without meeting any other vessels, and was twice blown off the coast after having been reported from the signal-station at Sandy Hook. At length, after all hopes of her safety had been abandoned, she was picked up and brought into New York harbor. So great was the privation and exposure that several of the passengers died, and Dr. Emmet was so much reduced that within six weeks after his arrival he died, on August 15th, 1842, at Mount Vernon, his brother Tom's country-place, near New York.

Although from day to day he slowly lost his strength, Dr. Emmet did not seem to realize the fact, for up to within a few moments before his



PROF. JOHN PATTEN EMMET, M. D.







MRS. JANE EMMET GRISWOLD.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHN PATTEN EMMET M.D.

BORN IN DUBLIN, IRELAND APRIL 8 1796

THE FIRST PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
LECTURER ON NATURAL HISTORY AND AFTERWARDS MATERIA MEDICA

DIED IN NEW YORK AUGUST 13 1842

AND HIS WIFE

MARY BYRD TUCKER EMMET

BORN IN BERMUDA AUGUST 2 1804

DIED IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 29 1860

ERECTED BY THEIR CHILDREN A.D. 1890.

death he was planning and looking forward to making his home in Florida. On the day of his death he seemed quite himself; after taking his breakfast he partially dressed himself and sat up in an easy-chair reading the morning newspaper. For several days he had been making out a list of the supplies he thought would be needed by the family in Florida. The lucifer match now in common use having been invented but a short time before, the writer was directed by his father to purchase some in the neighborhood and pack them in a tin box. While engaged packing the matches his father, who had just been reading from the paper the time advertised for the sailing of different vessels for the South, suddenly said: "My boy, call your mother quickly," and getting up from the chair unassisted, he laid down on the bed. Mrs. Emmet was in the adjoining room, and on reaching his side we heard him say: "I am never to see little Jane again."

He died, without a struggle, just at noon, the bells on the Blackwell's Island prison beginning to ring just as we reached his bedside.

His remains were placed in his brother's vault in the Marble Cemetery, Second Street, New York.

In the chapel of the University of Virginia there has been placed a brass mural monumental tablet by the children of Dr. and Mrs. Emmet, in memory of their father and mother.

At the first meeting of the Faculty of the University of Virginia, after the summer vacation, the following action was taken, as published in the newspapers of the day:

#### DR. EMMET.

At a full meeting of the Faculty of the University of Virginia, convened for the purpose of recording a tribute to the memory of Dr. John P. Emmet, late Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica in this Institution, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

We are again called upon to perform the sad duty of mingling our heartfelt sorrow over the grave of a beloved friend and colleague. Since the close of the last session death has bereaved us of another cherished companion—the inventive and learned, the ingenuous and high-souled John Patten Emmet, one of the earliest supports, and one of the brightest ornaments of this University.

As a cultivator of Physical Science, his talents for original investigation won for him a high place among the scientific of our land. As a professor his earnestness and vivacity, his learning and eloquence, his modesty and high-toned independence, his mingled firmness and urbanity secured to him the respect and cordial affection of his pupils, his colleagues and all the authorities of the University, and his valuable services in this capacity, from the foundation of the institution until his death, will form an important chapter in its history.

As a citizen and friend, a son, a brother, husband and father, he adorned his station by every social and domestic virtue, and long will the memory of his genius and excellence of heart be cherished by his colleagues, his former pupils and the wide circle of relatives and friends who now lament his loss.

As an earnest though feeble token of the respect and affection with which we regard the memory of our beloved colleague, and as a sincere offering of our heartfelt sympathy in the affliction of his bereaved wife and family:—

*Resolved*, That along with a Copy of these Proceedings we tender to Mrs. Emmet our most affectionate condolence and fraternal sympathy,—well knowing that, in the midst of her deep affliction, these mementoes of the warm attachment of those who knew and loved our lamented friend so well, will not prove an unacceptable offering to her feelings.

*Resolved*, That the above proceedings be published in the Charlottesville, Richmond, and Washington papers.

H. ST. GEO. TUCKER,  
Chairman of the Faculty.

WM. WERTENBAKER,  
Secretary of the Faculty.

The earliest recollection of the writer in connection with his father is the fact that he was a very agreeable companion. Dr. Emmet was a great favorite with his children, who looked forward each day to the pleasure of spending an hour with him before tea was announced and their bedtime had arrived. He possessed an endless fund of stories and songs, and seemed to be able to perform equally well on all musical instruments. He was always bright, full of fun, and ever ready for a practical joke.

So jolly was he that, on recalling the past, it seems impossible now to realize that he could then have been in bad health and constant suffering. In after life the writer has been able to appreciate fully, from the remnant of his father's library, which was preserved, and from his father's papers, that he must have been a man of remarkable attainments. He retained a full knowledge of Greek and Latin throughout his life. There has been preserved a thick octavo volume, closely written in Latin, which Dr. Emmet wrote for his course of lectures on the natural history of this country according to Buffon's system. He spoke French and Italian, and had some knowledge of German; he was a good mathematician, and possessed a profound knowledge of the sciences. Very few men of his day were better read on all subjects, or more familiar than he with English literature. He was a remarkably good draughtsman, proficient as a painter in oils, and chiseled several family busts in marble which were most striking likenesses. Mr. Tucker states: "He now and then exercised his pencil, too, but it was chiefly on grotesque subjects. At the meetings of the Faculty he instinctively, if a pen was within his reach, began to make sketches of a comic or burlesque character, and some of the Faculty books still retain vestiges of this propensity. These hasty and careless draughts always showed a practiced hand and bore the stamp of genius. His house was decorated with more finished productions of his pencil, which bear evidence that had he devoted himself to this beautiful art, he had risen to eminence."



H. J. Fawcett







DRAWING BY DR. J. P. EMMET.

The writer has had reproduced a specimen of his father's free-hand pen-drawing. This he rescued from loss when a boy, having witnessed its execution on a sheet of paper which by chance lay before his father. It was drawn with great rapidity and while he was deeply interested in a discussion with a friend on some subject which seemed then to occupy his attention more than the drawing. He drew first the figure and afterwards the full face. When he had completed what he had to say on the subject of the discussion he threw down the pen on the inkstand, remarking, as if to himself, "The full face gives the expression of the profile," and at the same time he pushed the paper away from him as if, having accomplished what he had attempted, it interested him no more. The writer has also an oil portrait of Washington, painted by his father from the Stuart portrait, and while there can be no comparison made with the finished work of Stuart, the copy has been idealized into being, in all probability, a better likeness of Washington than the original.

For his day he was a good musician; he composed music readily, had a good voice and left a number of songs in which both music and verse were original. Withal, he was a most ingenious man and seemed never at a loss for mechanical device, handling with great dexterity the tools of any trade and reproducing with them anything he wished.

Mr. Tucker states: "His was, I incline to think, the most inventive mind I ever met with, and its rare powers of making new combinations were manifestly not more in forming hypotheses than in devising experiments to test the soundness of his theoretical views and in contriving the mechanical apparatus required for that purpose. He was a very pleasing lecturer. His style of speaking, as in writing, was always clear, had the grace of simplicity and ease and was occasionally very felicitous. His mind, naturally excursive, took a wide range and often surprised and delighted his class by the beauty and novelty of his illustrations. Nor did he disdain to embellish and diversify the gravest subject of speculation with flashes of wit or even some original and ingenious pun; but in the play of his fancy he exhibited the temperance of modesty as well as of good taste. He was eminently a being of impulse, but his impulses were those of a warm, generous, unsophisticated nature.

"His virtues, his peculiarities, all his modes of thinking and acting, in short, were strongly marked by this feature of his character. Sudden and lively feeling prompted his likings or dislikes, made him enamoured of a theory grateful for kindness or resentful of supposed injury or indignity done or meditated. To the same cause may be ascribed his remarkable openness and sincerity from every species of artifice or affectation. One of the

most striking as well as pleasing traits of his character was his modesty, which in man or woman is a crowning moral grace ; and like the veil of a lady, but the more sets off the beauty it would seem to obscure. He spoke little of himself and never with pretension. He was backward in doing himself justice."

His individuality and great worth were indelibly impressed upon the memory of his son. Years after the death of his father, and when publishing a medical book in which was embodied the work of a lifetime, the author's gratification was intense when dedicating it to his father's memory. The dedication was written with the feeling that his father was present in the spirit, and if possible would have expressed his approbation. The dedication was to the memory of

An honest man,  
Esteemed by all who knew him.  
To his example and early training I owe my success in life;  
In youth I aimed to merit his approbation, in manhood I have striven to  
be worthy of his good name.

Mrs. Emmet, shortly after her husband's death, came to New York and remained with his relatives until her son had graduated in medicine and had established himself there. Her son married, in 1853, Miss Catherine R. Duncan, of Alabama,\* and after this time, with more leisure, she devoted her energies to the cultivation of her taste for rare exotics, an opportunity which in her busy life had never before presented itself.

Thus, in the midst of her children, grandchildren and flowers, Mrs. Emmet's life was uneventfully passed to the end. She died at her son's residence, on Madison Avenue, February 29th, 1860, and her remains were deposited with those of her husband in the Marble Cemetery vault, Second Street, New York.

\* It became necessary to reprint this signature, after the work had been finished, so the writer was able to give this note relating to the Duncan family, of Alabama, which was supposed to have come from Ardounie, Scotland, in consequence of the similarity of the arms. The writer recently came into possession of a book published in London, 1875, with the title, "Real pictures of clerical life in Ireland," by the Rev. J. Duncan Craig, of Dublin, a distant relative of Mrs. Emmet, and in this work we find a clue to the early history of her father's family. Mr. Craig states : " In the same parish of Strathblane for some centuries lived the ancient family of the Duncans of Drummiskirk, who held their lands, prospered and were intermarried with the Lyles, Grahams, Craigs and, finally, by the marriage of my grandfather with his cousin, Miss Duncan,—when two of her brothers settled in Dublin at the close of the eighteenth century, the occasion arose of my father's leaving Scotland." " My grandfather Duncan, at the time of '98, commanded as colonel the Linen Hall Corps of Volunteers; and my granduncle Duncan served as private in the same corps." " My father leaving Dalholme, came to Ireland to his uncle, John Duncan, who lived in Granby Row about the year 1804. The Duncans have passed away. Some [one] went to the United States and became Southern planters, &c."

As Colonel of the Linen Hall Corps of Volunteers, Dublin, Mr. Duncan must have been an Orange-man, with no interest or sympathy in common with nine-tenths of the Irish people at that time.



MISS CATHERINE REBECCA DUNCAN.



CATHARINE R. DUNCAN EMMET.



THOS. ADDIS EMMET, M. D.





## JOHN PATTEN EMMET, M.D., AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

John Patten Emmet, the second son and the fourth child of Thos. Addis Emmet, was born in Dublin, Ireland, April 8th, 1796, and died August 15th, 1842.

He married, July 24th, 1827, Miss Mary Byrd Farley Tucker, who was born in Bermuda, August 2d, 1804, and died February 29th, 1860.

Dr. and Mrs. Emmet had the following children :

I. Thos. Addis Emmet, M.D., LL.D., born at the University of Virginia, May 29th, 1828. He was partially educated at the University of Virginia; began the study of medicine, in the autumn of 1845, at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and graduated in 1850. Began the practice of medicine in the City of New York, in the autumn of 1850, as Resident Physician for fifteen months in the Emigrants' Refuge Hospital, Ward's Island; then he was appointed, in 1852, a Visiting Physician, and served in this position until the autumn of 1855, when he became Assistant Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital Association. In 1861 he was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief to the Woman's Hospital in the State of New York, and served in this capacity until 1871, when, under a change of the organization, he accepted the position as one of the Surgeons of the Surgical Board, and has continued to hold this position. He has served as Consulting Surgeon or as Consulting Physician to the Roosevelt Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital and other institutions in the City of New York.

In 1868 was published by him an original surgical work on Vesico Vaginal Fistula, which was the foundation for this form of plastic surgery. The Principles and Practice of Gynæcology, written by Dr. Emmet, was issued in 1879; three editions of this work were printed in this country and in London, and it was translated and published in Germany and in France. Dr. Emmet has written sixty or more monographs on different professional subjects, all of which were printed in the medical journals of the day at home or abroad. He has also written various essays bearing upon subjects connected with American history—as the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Annapolis Convention, the Presidents

of Congress and of the United States, etc.—of which but a single copy was printed, for the purpose of being illustrated with autographs and portraits. These works form now part of the "Emmet Collection" in the Lenox Library of the City of New York. He has also completed recently a work, which has occupied his attention for several years, on the political and commercial history of Ireland during the past three centuries—to show that it has been a settled policy on the part of the British Government that Ireland should not prosper. The title of the work is "The Indictment of 1898; or, Why Ireland has not prospered under English Rule," with the legend "God Save Ireland." This book has not yet been published.\*

Dr. Thos. Addis Emmet married, February 14th, 1853, Catherine Rebecca, daughter of John Duncan and Catherine Moffitt Creyon, of Autauga County, Ala., and had the following children:

1. John Duncan Emmet, born April 26th, 1857. Physician. Was educated at the University of Virginia; afterwards studied medicine and graduated there in 1880, and subsequently received the same degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. He then served the full term as one of the Resident House Staff of the Roosevelt Hospital, and afterwards, during 1884 and 1885, in the same capacity for eighteen months in the Woman's Hospital. To this institution he became an Assistant Surgeon in the autumn of 1886, and has continued on duty to the present time. Dr. Emmet was a founder and proprietor, as well as editor, of the New York Journal of Gynæcology and Obstetrics, later the American Gynæcological and Obstetrical Journal. After service as Surgeon to the Sixty-ninth Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., early in 1898 he became Surgeon to the Fifth Brigade, on the staff of Gen. George Moore Smith, awaiting orders to be called into active service as portion of the New York Volunteers.

\* When the sentiment, supposed to exist to some extent in this country, in favor of "British Alliance" has been dispelled, and in more peaceful times, when a truthful version of Irish history will be acceptable, this work may be published. At present the author has the satisfaction of feeling that he has probably done justice to his subject, as a number of publishers, from alleged motives of policy, refused to publish the work even at the author's expense. Yet it is believed the time is not distant when the people of this country, who are to so great a degree of Irish blood, will realize the truth that the government of Cuba by Spain for the past three hundred years was merciful and just in comparison with England's management of Irish affairs during the same period. If the sympathies of the American people are sincere for the past suffering of the Cubans, in maintaining the present war with Spain, we will never be deluded into forming a "British Alliance" until Ireland's wrongs have been redressed. The purpose for writing the work will have then been accomplished through other means, and there will be no need for publishing it.



THOS. ADDIS EMMET, M. D.



CATHARINE R. DUNCAN EMMET.







MRS. ROBERT EMMET AND HER SON  
ROBERT EMMET, JR.

2. Annie, born March 12th, 1859. Married, February 8th, 1888, Charles N. Harris, lawyer. Died March 13th, 1898. Had issue:
  - a. Margaret, born December 2d, 1888.
  - b. Addis Emmet, born February 9th, 1890.
3. Mary Tucker, born July 31st, 1860; died in New York, October 16th, 1877.
4. Thos. Addis Emmet, born April 18th, 1863. A member of Squadron A, N.G.S.N.Y. He was mustered into active service of the United States July, 1898, as a trooper of the New York Volunteers, and was ordered to Porto Rico.
5. Kathleen Erin, born October 6th, 1864.
6. Robert Griswold (dropped the name Griswold in 1891), born October 23d, 1871. Was educated at Harvard and graduated in 1892. Began the study of medicine and graduated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, 1896. In May, 1898, as Sergeant of Squadron A, N.G.S.N.Y., he was mustered into active service of the United States as a trooper of New York Volunteers, and was ordered to Porto Rico. Married, November 25th, 1896, Louise, daughter of James A. and Anna Louise Tuller Garland, of New York, and had issue:
  - a. Robert Emmet, born September 28th, 1897.

II. John Tucker Emmet, born April 9th, 1829; died at the University of Virginia, September 24th, 1837.

III. Jane, born at the University of Virginia, April 29th, 1832. Married, March 29th, 1860, John Noble Alsop Griswold, of New York, and had issue:

1. Minnie, born July 20th, 1861. Married John Murray Forbes, of New York, and had issue.
2. Richard Alsop. Died young.
3. John Noble Griswold, born October 9th, 1865; died July 22d, 1895.
4. Florence, born October 20th, 1867. Married Horatio R. O. Cross, Surgeon British Army, and had issue.
5. Addis McEvers, born November 29th, 1870. Changed his name to George Griswold, 1890.

## IN MEMORIAM.

[Written on the death of Miss Mary Tucker Emmet.]

BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR.

She has solved it, life's wonderful problem,  
The deepest, the strongest, the last,  
And into the school of the Angels,  
With the answer, forever has passed.

How strange that, in spite of our questioning,  
She maketh no answer, nor tells  
Why so soon were life's honoring laurels  
Dispelled by God's immortelles.

How strange she should sleep so profoundly,  
So young, so unworn by the strife,  
While beside her, brimful of hope's nectar,  
Untouched stood the goblet of life.

Strong men sleep like that when the evening  
Of a long, weary day droppeth down.  
But she wrought so well, that the morning  
Brought for her the rest and the crown.

'Tis idle to talk of the future,  
And the rare "might have been" 'mid our tears.  
God knows all about it, yet took her  
Away from the on-coming years.

God knew all about it, how noble,  
How gentle she was, and how brave,  
How bright was her possible future,  
Yet put her to sleep in the grave.

God knows all about those who love her,  
How bitter the trial must be,  
And right through it all, God is loving,  
And knows so much better than we.



MARY TUCKER EMMET,  
Died 1877.





MISS KATHLEEN ERIN SMET.  
ROBERT SMET.

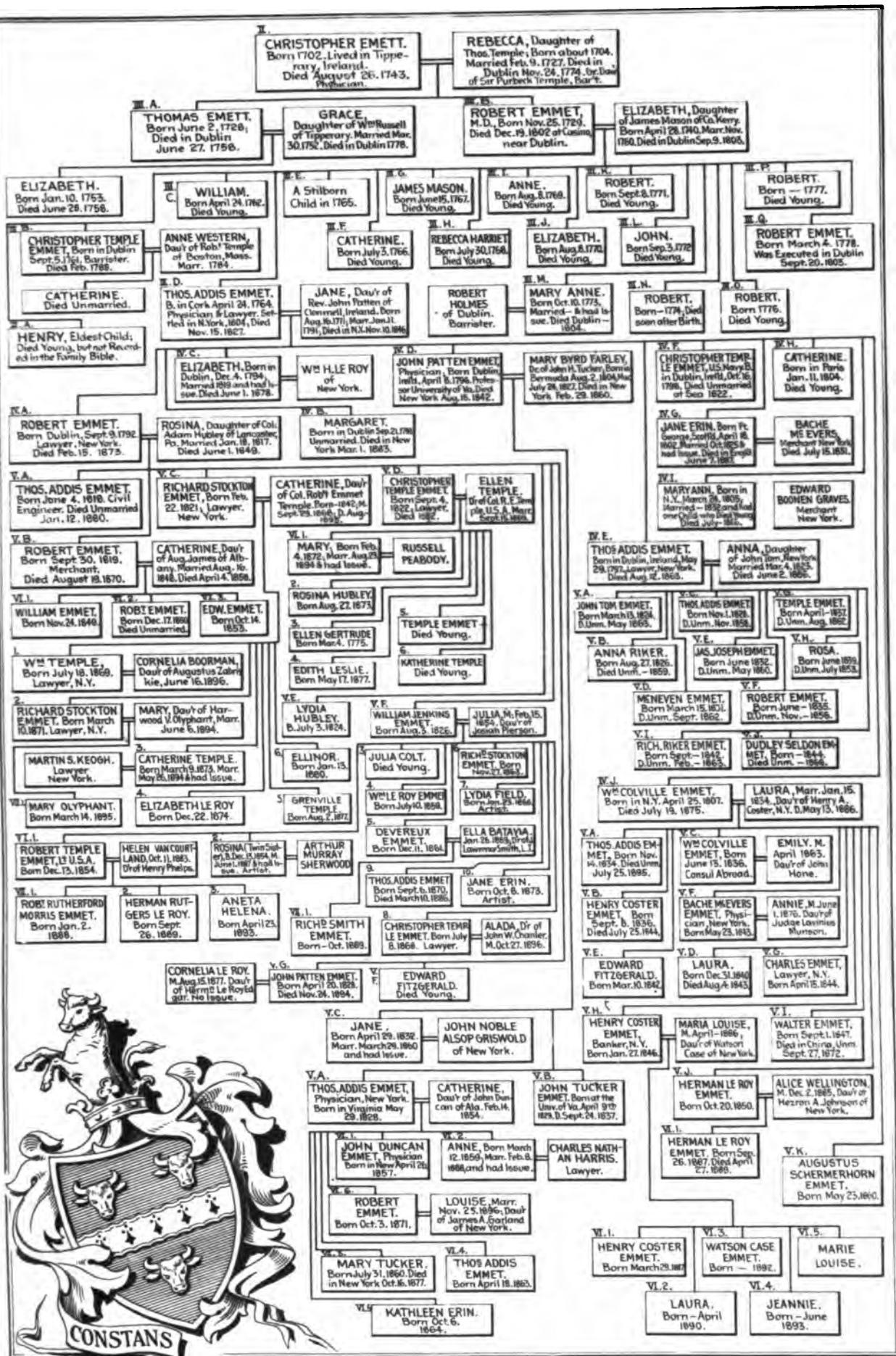
MRS. CATHERINE DUNCAN SMET.  
DR. T. A. SMET.

MARGARET MARRIS.  
ADDIE SMET MARRIS.

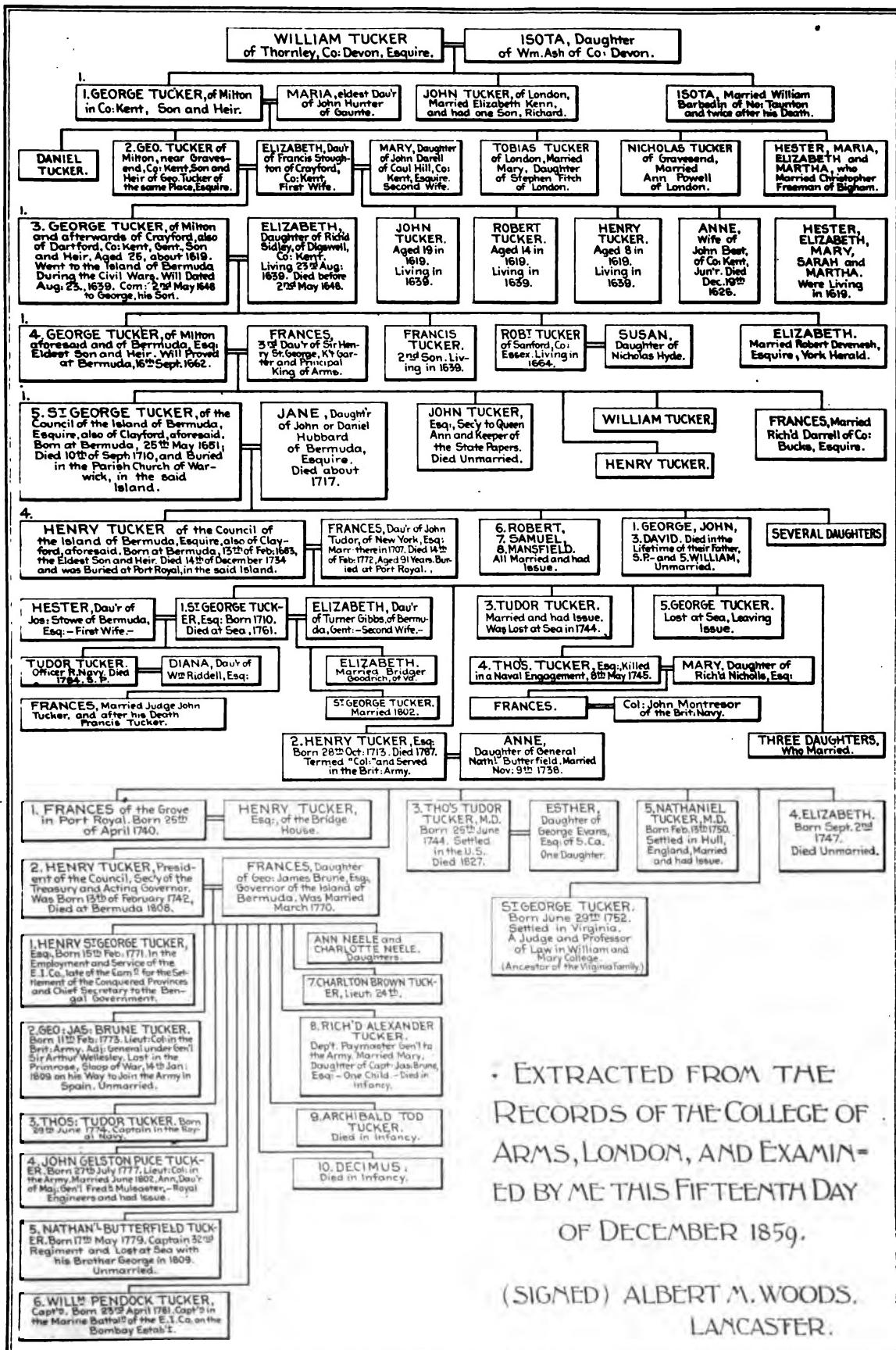
CHARLES H. MARRIS.  
MRS. ANNIE SMET MARRIS.

DR. J. D. SMET.  
MISS ELIZA E. DUNCAN.

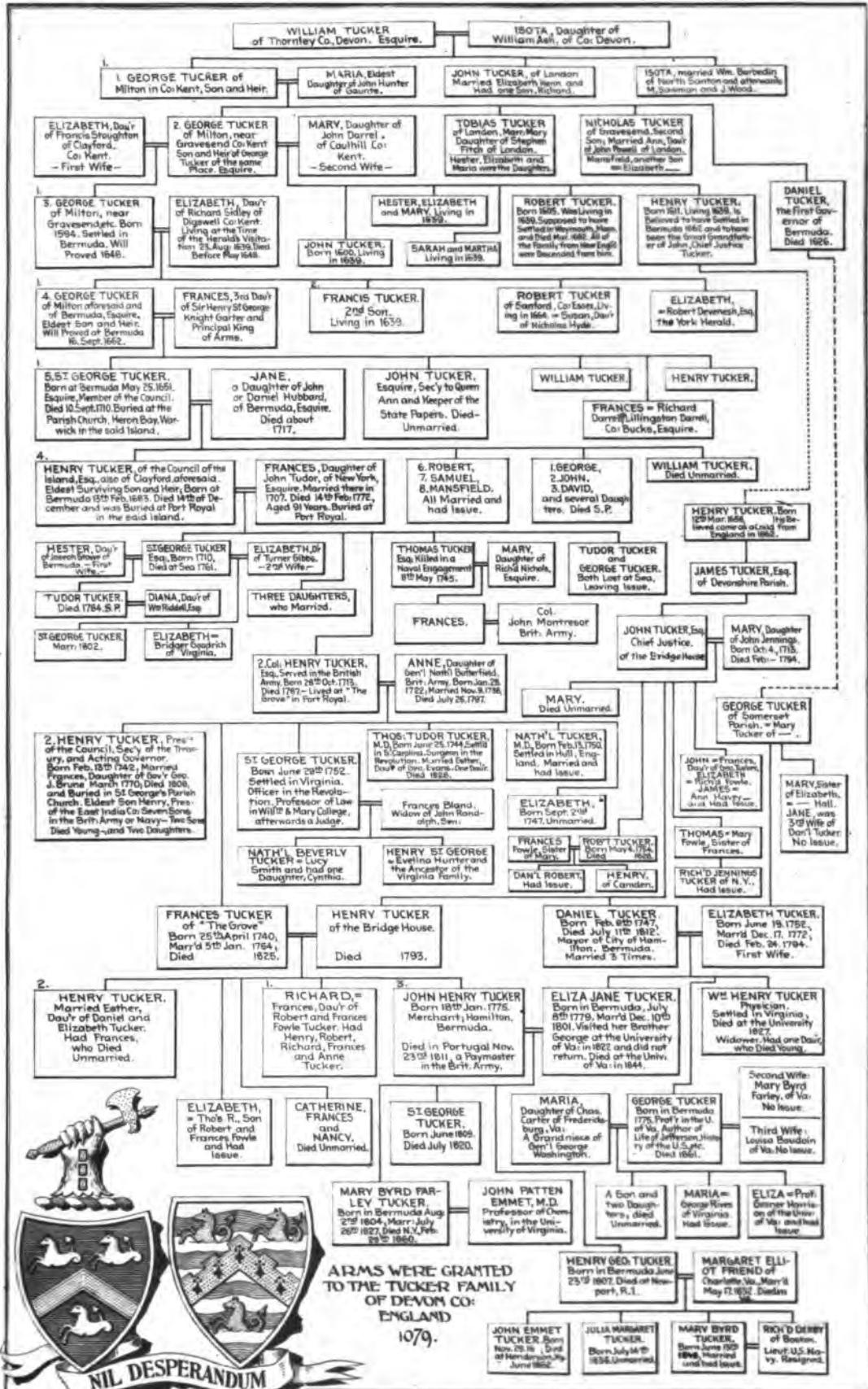












PEDIGREE OF THE TUCKERS OF BERMUDA IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMMET FAMILY.



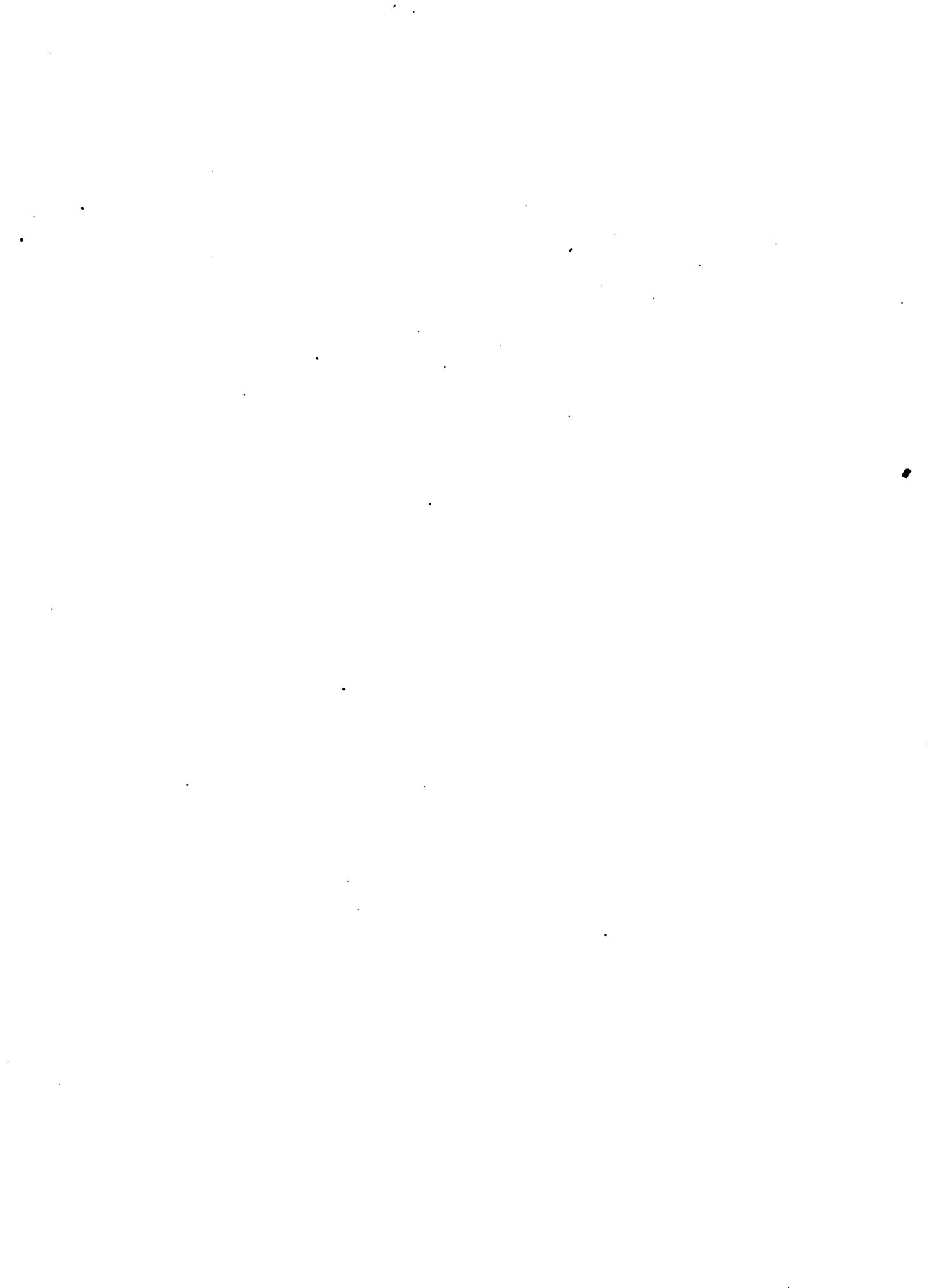


JAMES TUCKER,  
of Devonshire Parish.





COL. HENRY TUCKER.  
Of "The Grove."





ANNE BUTTERFIELD TUCKER  
WITH HER CHILDREN ELIZABETH AND NATHANIEL.





HENRY TUCKER,  
of the "Bridge House."





FRANCES TUCKER,  
of "The Grove."



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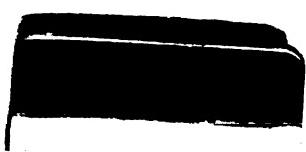




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